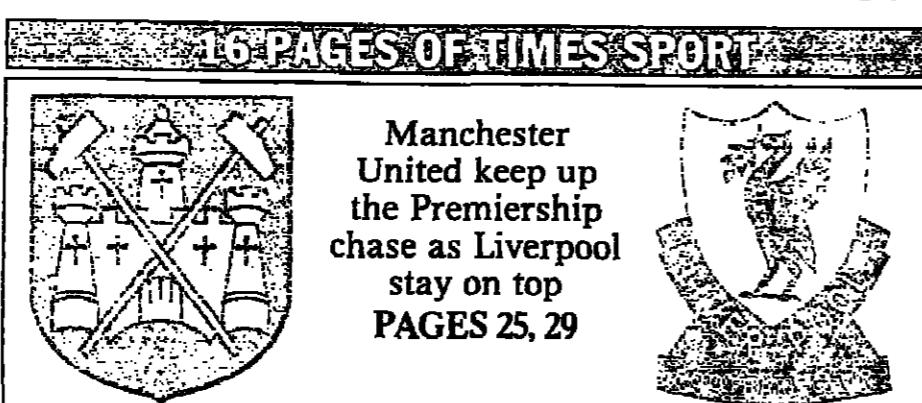
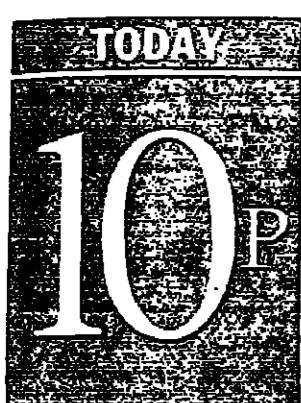


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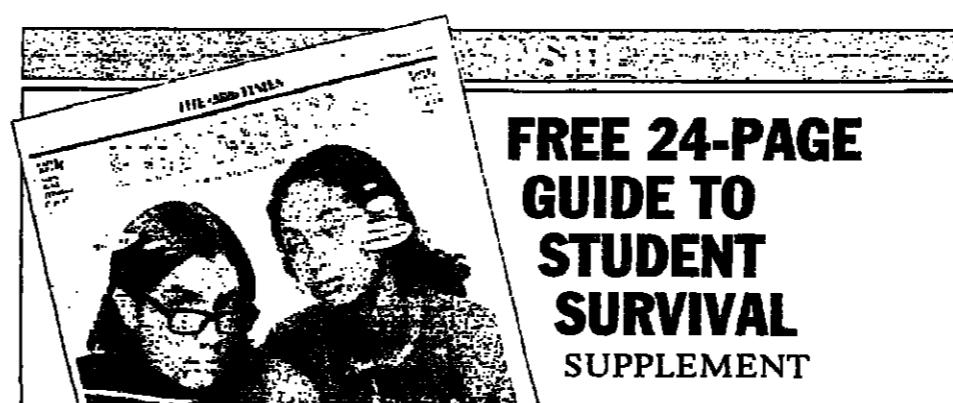


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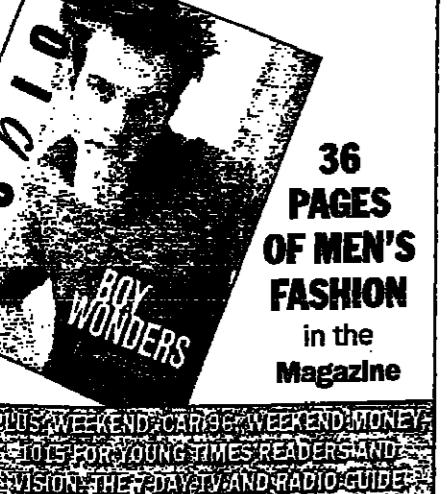
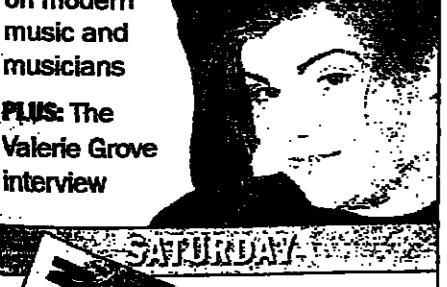
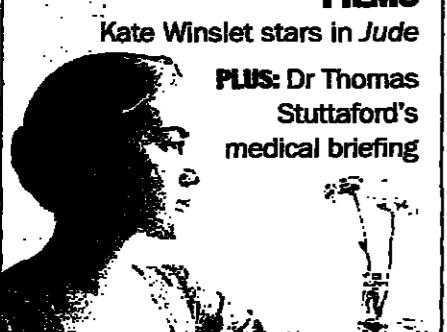
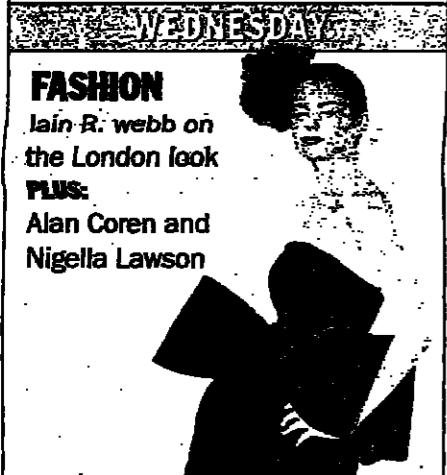
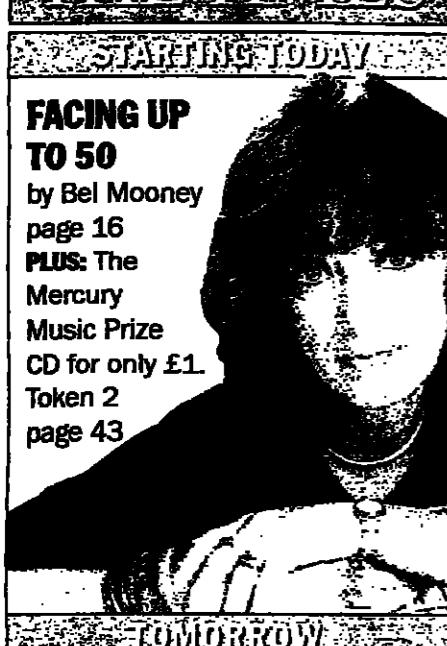
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 1996



Manchester United keep up the Premiership chase as Liverpool stay on top
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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES



Chancellor says voters would be deeply suspicious of cuts in Budget

Clarke tax gaffe is gift to Labour

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE handed Labour a big pre-conference propaganda boost yesterday by suggesting that voters would be "deeply suspicious" of any tax cuts he made in the November Budget.

In astonishingly frank remarks the Chancellor said people would remember that the Tories promised tax reductions at the last election and had been unable to deliver.

"Frothy tax cuts won't win a vote. It is not the case that my Budget requires tax cuts in order to win the election," he told GMTV's *Sunday programme*. "The public will be deeply suspicious of any tax cuts because they remember we promised tax cuts last time and unfortunately weren't about to deliver them, so they will look sideways at tax cuts from this Government."

He said that he was opposed to the idea of a United States of Europe — but he also rejected the suggestion that Britain could flourish outside the EU as part of a European free trade area. "If you just go to the single market without being in the politics, all that happens is that you accept all the rules, you are subject to the court, you are not allowed to opt out of the social chapter, let the others make the rules."

But with Labour certain to face internal difficulties as Gordon Brown finalises his tax strategy over the coming weeks, Mr Clarke's apparent gaffe was seized upon.

Mr Brown said that Labour was promising only what it could deliver. "Kenneth Clarke has said people are deeply suspicious of the Conservatives because they broke their promises. People are suspicious because the Conservatives made promises they knew they could not keep. It's an astonishing admission for a Government which now has no credibility on tax."

John Townend, chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, disagreed with the Chancellor. "It is not that we did not deliver tax cuts. It is that we delivered significant tax increases. We started to put that right at the last Budget but it is important that we re-establish ourselves as a low-tax party."

Mr Clarke said: "I think it is likely the Euro-zone is going to emerge. It is set upon by most of the Continental countries who intend to go into economic and monetary union. I think six, seven, eight of them will

Conference reports, pages 8, 9
George Brock, page 12
Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, Letters, page 21
Anatole Kaletsky, page 48

Netanyahu and Arafat to join peace summit

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAELI and Palestinian leaders are to meet in Washington early this week, possibly as early as tomorrow, in a bid to save the Middle East peace process.

President Clinton yesterday announced that Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, had accepted his invitation to a Washington summit designed to end the bloodshed engulfing the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr Clinton said Jordan's King Hussein had also agreed to attend, but Egypt's President Mubarak had yet to reply. Ami Moussa, Egypt's Foreign Minister, said Mr Mubarak wanted clear goals and Mr Netanyahu's commitment to abide by previous agreements.

Administration officials expect the summit to begin tomorrow and to last two days.

Mr Clinton's announcement came as Israel deployed more tanks and armoured vehicles within striking distance of Palestinian self-rule areas, in the West Bank and Gaza, ready to re-take Palestinian territory if the violence continued under "Operation Field of Thorns".

"This is a crisis situation," warned Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State who brokered the summit during several days of intense behind-the-scenes diplomacy. The entire peace process was "in jeopardy". The Israelis and Palestinians had "looked over that abyss of violence and really wanted to turn back".

In agreeing to attend both men compromised. Mr Netanyahu had

wanted a prior end to Palestinian violence and, reportedly, a one-on-one meeting with Mr Arafat in Israel that would demonstrate his willingness to talk but avoid international pressure for concessions.

Mr Arafat had wanted a meeting in Cairo or Washington with international participation, plus the prior closing of the archaeological tunnel near a Muslim holy site whose opening by the Israeli Government last week sparked the violence. The tunnel remains open.

Mr Christopher said it was "the prestige of the United States that caused them to be willing to come here". He warned the world "shouldn't expect miracles" from the summit because the two men were "estranged" and "pretty raw". The important thing was "to get them back into direct contact".

The summit will also take place just five weeks before America's presidential election, placing Mr Clinton in an unusually delicate position. He would love to engineer a dramatic breakthrough. His advisers privately blame the renewed violence on the tunnel's reopening and Mr Netanyahu's stalling of the peace process but if Mr Clinton pressures the Israeli Prime Minister too hard he risks losing Jewish-American support.

Jews comprise three per cent of America's population but about six per cent of actual voters, and are particularly important in Florida, a normally-Republican state which Mr Clinton has high hopes of winning.

Jockey's record costs £20 million

A 25-year-old jockey was celebrating a £50,000 win after backing jockey Frank Dettori, who won an unprecedented seven victories at Saturday's Ascot race meeting. Darren Yates, of Morecambe, Lancashire, hit the jackpot with a £64 stake on a 50p Super Heinz accumulator bet on Dettori's winners. Bookmakers estimated that they had lost £20 million on Dettori's success..... Pages 32, 33

Islamic era starts in Kabul

An accused thief was paraded through Kabul tied to the back of a lorry with banknotes stuffed into his ears and mouth, women were ordered into purdah and girls' schools were closed as the Taliban militia imposed Islamic law on the city..... Pages 11, 21

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Blair blows away more traces of union past

By PHILIP WEBSTER, JILL SHERMAN
AND PHILIP BASSETT

TONY BLAIR will bury his party's image as the political wing of the trade union movement tomorrow with a speech attempting to establish Labour as the party of enterprise in Britain.

In his last Labour conference speech before the General Election, Mr Blair is expected to tell both business and unions to forget the past, calling on them to form a partnership to create a fresh era of industrial relations.

Mr Blair is expected to refer to New Labour as the political wing of the British people: a move likely to be seen as further evidence of his desire to distance the party from the unions. However, there were growing signs yesterday that the unions would not cause serious trouble for Mr Blair this week.

Party and union leaders spent much of yesterday working on deals to avoid embarrassing defeats for the leadership later this week on pensions and workers' rights. Last night the outcome on pensions was still uncertain, with the veteran former Cabinet minister Lady Castle pressing on with her campaign to improve state pensions. She accused

Continued on page 2, col 7

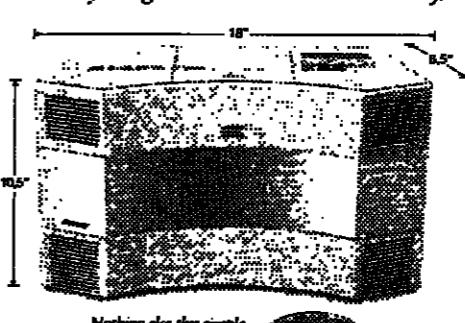


Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie, at Blackpool's North Shore Methodist Church



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Cambridge scientist 'leaked atom bomb secrets to USSR'

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

INTELLIGENCE papers to be released by the Public Record Office tomorrow are likely to unravel the mysterious past of a Cambridge scientist who is alleged to have leaked secrets of the United States atom bomb to the Soviet Union.

A host of new material about the Cambridge spy ring that included Donald Maclean, the Foreign Office liaison officer at the US Atomic Energy Commission, and Kim

Philby, the MI6 liaison officer to US intelligence agencies, is also anticipated.

But the role of Dr Theodore Hall, an American physicist who has lived in this country for 34 years, is particularly fascinating. Dr Hall, who lives with his wife Joan near Cambridge city centre, was named in Soviet and US documents released by the Americans earlier this year. He was identified as having passed information about the top secret US atom bomb project in Los Alamos, Mexico, to a Soviet agent.

Last night Dr Hall, in his 70s and suffering from cancer and Parkinson's disease, declined to comment about his alleged role. Mrs Hall,

there was immediate speculation that he was the missing link in one of the most controversial Cold War espionage scandals.

The Times has established that Dr Hall will feature in the British release of 2,500 Soviet intercepts collated in Operation Venona, a joint US and UK intelligence operation which trapped Soviet atom spies.

Last night Dr Hall, in his 70s and suffering from cancer and Parkinson's disease, declined to comment about his alleged role. Mrs Hall,

also American, who taught Russian and Italian at Cambridge, was unaware that new papers were to be released by the Government. She referred inquiries to their solicitor, Benedict Birnberg.

Mr Birnberg last night was surprised that the Government was releasing the Venona papers. He said: "We would prefer to wait and see what comes out before making any statement."

Dr Hall is known for his pioneering work in the field of biological X-ray microanalysis. This enabled

scientists to look at X-ray data through electron microscopes and work out the presence of various elements.

But earlier this year a report in the *Washington Post* alleged that Dr Hall was one of two agents who passed secrets of the US bomb code-named Manhattan to the Russians. The report said Dr Hall was likely to have been known to Moscow as "Mlad", or youngster.

The other agent was Klaus Fuchs, a refugee from Nazi Germany, who was part of the British delega-

tion to Los Alamos. He was convicted in Britain and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Mr Birnberg said last week that Dr Hall had already made clear he believed there were "numerous inaccuracies" in the *Washington Post* report and that he wished to make no comment about the report or about his time spent at Los Alamos.

Dr Hall is referred to by name in a Soviet intelligence document to Moscow from the KGB in New York in November 1944.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four face terrorist charges

Four men will appear in court today charged with terrorist offences following police raids last week. The men will appear at the high-security Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in south-east London, accused of conspiring to cause an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious damage to property. They are also charged with possession of explosives.

Scotland Yard named them as Brian McHugh, 30, unemployed; Patrick Pearce Joseph Kelly, also 30 and unemployed; James Murphy, 25, a school groundsman; and Michael Phillips, 21, a British Airways apprentice engineer. A spokesman said: "We are not disclosing the addresses of those charged for operational reasons. There will be no further details released in connection with these charges."

Bridge rescue

Firemen abseiling alongside a man rescued him as he dangled by handcuffs from the Clifton suspension bridge for half an hour. He had been manacled by PC Richard Barnston to try to thwart his suicide attempt.

Kart boy killed

A boy of seven died yesterday when his motorised kart crashed on an indoor track. His mother was thought to have been watching as the kart left the track and hit side barrier at the Kart Raceway, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire.

Battleship repair

Royal Navy divers will begin work this week on repairing the sunken battleship *HMS Royal Oak*, which has leaked oil for 57 years since it was torpedoed by a German submarine in Scapa Flow with the loss of 833 lives.

First degrees

Britain's oldest business school is poised to become the pioneer for a new generation of private colleges awarding their own degrees. Henley Management College opened in 1945, pioneering today's most popular subject.

Flood alert issued

Parts of Britain were put on flood alert yesterday. North Wales and Cumbria were worst affected after 3in of rain. Roads in the Lake District were closed and motorists were forced to abandon their cars. Forecast, page 24

NHS takes top position in private healthcare

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE NHS has become the largest provider of private healthcare in Britain. The boom in the construction of private wings attached to trust hospitals and the opening of new pay beds has put the health service at the top of the private hospital league for the first time.

In 1995 the NHS earned £225 million from private work, just ahead of the £222.3 million earned by Bupa, its nearest rival, latest figures show. Its estimated 16.5 per cent share of the total private market has grown from 11 per cent in 1988. At the present rate it could claim 20 per cent by 2000.

The figures are disclosed in *The Fitzhugh Directory of Independent Healthcare 1996-97*, published today. William Fitzhugh, the publisher, said: "This is a remarkable situation. A state provider becomes market leader in a commercial market in 1996."

In some quarters there was embarrassment at its achievement, he said. "The NHS has mixed feelings about its role in the private sector. Whilst it wants the revenues it does not always want to be seen to be attracting the revenues."

The expansion of private work in NHS hospitals has been at the expense of the major private groups. After ten years of growth the total number of private beds declined last year for the first time to 11,098. Occupancy rates in some hospitals are low, which may put their future at risk, Mr Fitzhugh said.

Twenty NHS trusts earned more than £2 million from

their private work in 1994-95. Top earner was Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Trust with revenue of £10 million. Other high earning hospitals were the Royal Marsden, the Royal Free, Hammersmith, University College and Great Ormond Street. Nine of the top ten earners were London hospitals.

The top ranking trust outside London was the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, at ninth place with revenue of £4.4 million. In total, 52 trusts earned more than £1 million from their private work.

The NHS gained its premier position after BMI, the French-owned group, last year's market leader, sold three of its major London hospitals to Columbia Healthcare, now the fourth largest provider behind the NHS, BUPA and BMI. Private providers have developed increasingly aggressive marketing in response to the threat from the NHS. Earlier this year, BUPA, the biggest health insurer, announced a policy which excludes patients from treatment in NHS pay beds — a move which the NHS Trust Federation claimed could cost the health service £50 million over the next four years.

Mr Fitzhugh said that as the size of the NHS's private business has grown, the potential threat from a Labour government has receded. "The forces to preserve and extend private sector activity are now too powerful to be eliminated. If a Labour Government is returned, one could expect them to discourage but not outlaw NHS private patient provision."

Twenty NHS trusts earned more than £2 million from



Helen Kenna was saved by two men as her car hung over a 60ft drop onto a road

Crash victim seeks shy rescuers

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A WOMAN said a special prayer in church last night after sitting for five minutes in a car hanging perilously over a 60ft drop from a bridge onto a busy dual carriageway.

As Helen Kenna prayed,

her family appealed for two men who pulled her to safety from her crushed car to come forward. Her husband,

George, said he hoped he could thank them personally.

Mrs Kenna, a shipping controller, 53, was unable to escape from the car, which was swaying in the wind above the A404M when one man held onto the other as he prised the car door open and carried her to safety.

Police had responded to a number of calls from worried motorists reporting a black car dangling over the bypass

at Marlow, Buckinghamshire. But by the time they arrived Mrs Kenna was free and her rescuers had left.

Mrs Kenna, who was alone in the car, was treated for shock and a bruised arm. A Thames Valley Police spokesman said: "Another few inches and the car would have gone crashing. Goodness knows what mayhem and injuries that would have caused."

Police had responded to a number of calls from worried motorists reporting a black car dangling over the bypass

Howard rebuffs prison inspector over wider role

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office has rebuffed attempts by the Chief Inspector of Prisons to extend his remit amid renewed anger among senior jail officials at his intervention in policy matters.

Sir David Ramsbotham's suggestion that his job should cover the Prison Service rather than just the inspection of prisons has been firmly rejected by government ministers and officials.

One senior source said: "It was informally suggested that he be inspector of the whole service but it is not going to happen. The fact is he is Chief Inspector of Prisons rather than the Prison Service."

Sir David has also annoyed ministers with robust comments in two reports of inspections, in which he called for the reappointment of a Director of Young Offenders and another to look after the interests of women prisoners in England and Wales.

In his report on Aylesbury young offender institution, Sir David said that the whole of the prison estate dealing with juvenile offenders required leadership, understanding and support from ministers and Prison Service headquarters at Westminster. He said they should provide "not only resources but also the vital mandatory training needed to equip staff to deal with the special needs of adolescents".

Sir David said: "My findings at Aylesbury have only increased my conviction that there should be a Director of Young Offenders in Prison Service headquarters at the earliest possible opportunity, responsible for overseeing all issues affecting this important and impressionable group of prisoners throughout England and Wales."

His comments, at the end of a report which praised how staff were handling the young offenders, angered senior officials in the service and brought

another rebuke for Sir David. The Chief Inspector, who took over from Judge Stephen Tumim last year for a five-year term, was informed that some of his comments were outside his remit. "It was pointed out to him just what the remit of the job is. His job is to inspect prisons; questions about resources and new directors are for ministers and the prisons board," the Whitehall source said.

A Prison Service source pointed out that the job of the Chief Inspector of Prisons was



Ramsbotham in first year of five-year post

to inspect and report to the Home Secretary on prison service establishments, conditions in them and the treatment of prisoners and facilities available to them.

There have been other disputes between Sir David and the Home Office. Three months ago Michael Howard tried to stop him discussing prison policy in public. Mr Howard attempted to "reign in" Sir David amid concern at the high public profile adopted by the Chief Inspector. After holding a press conference on the second day of an inspection at Doncaster prison in south Yorkshire, Sir David was told by the Secretary of State that he was expected to report to him, not the media.

Blair cuts links

Continued from page 1
The Observer yesterday indicated that he would like to go into an election without promising any increase in tax.

He said: "When people accuse me of being too cautious, what they really mean is 'you are not saying your taxes are going to go up'. Well no, I am not saying that. It's absolutely true I am not saying that."

Although Mr Blair's team is increasingly confident of a good conference week, there are obvious tensions over the line to take on taxation.

While Gordon Brown has told leadership colleagues that he is considering a 50p top rate of tax, levied on earnings of more than £100,000 as *The Times* disclosed last week, Mr Blair appears still to favour leaving the 40p top rate unchanged. In an interview in

Slow councils withhold thousands of grants

By DAVID CHARTER

THOUSANDS of students are being deprived of money which is rightfully theirs by slow-paying local authorities. Payment of grants in some areas is so slow students cannot afford to buy books and some even face fines for failing to meet their financial obligations, according to the National Union of Students.

Teesside Council is one of seven local authorities which only deliver three quarters or less of their grants before a university term starts, an audit commission survey showed.

Just half of the 116 local authorities in England and

Wales had paid all their grants out by October 10 in 1994, the year of the survey. Douglas Trainer, NUS president said: "We are very angry that despite requests from the previous education secretary, John Patten, local authorities still consider it is all right to deprive students of what is rightfully theirs."

He added: "Many university terms start in September so thousands of students are going without their grant for weeks at a time. This is especially traumatic for first year students who are having to cope with living away from home for the first time."

The audit commission said:

Crash Tornado recovered

SALVAGE workers recovered the wreckage of a Tornado jet from the sea off Blackpool sections yesterday.

The aircraft, which crashed on Saturday just yards from the south beach in front of thousands of day trippers, was hauled from the waves in two separate parts by cranes, but one engine remained missing. Other rescue workers picked up bits of debris, including the "black box" flight recorder, which will be examined by the Ministry of Defence and British Aerospace.

The two crewmen who ejected safely remained in hospital last night. They were praised for managing to ditch the ailing aircraft in the sea. Roy Minnear, director of Blackpool airport, said: "Had they not done that I hate to think what would have happened. The whole area was packed with visitors. The fuel alone was a major public danger."

The plane had just made a

500ft pass over Blackpool airport after flying at low level, with its undercarriage down, over the neighbouring resort of Lytham St Annes. Bill Hankin, a guesthouse owner, said: "You could see smoke coming out of the tail. The pilot was fighting definitely fighting to keep it in the air. He must have been deliberately going out to sea to avoid crashing in a built up area. Those two aircrew deserve medals."

Experts said the plane had crashed into the sea because the crew had run out of fuel. The two crewmen had ejected safely and were taken to hospital. The pilot had been flying at low level to avoid hitting buildings in the town.

After the crash, the plane had been recovered by a salvage company using a large crane. The wreckage was then transported to a nearby port where it will be examined by experts.

Mr Brown is thought to believe that it would be more credible for Labour to go into the election with a 50p rate for the highest earners, than to pledge no tax cuts. Yesterday, he hinted on BBC television that he favoured some change.

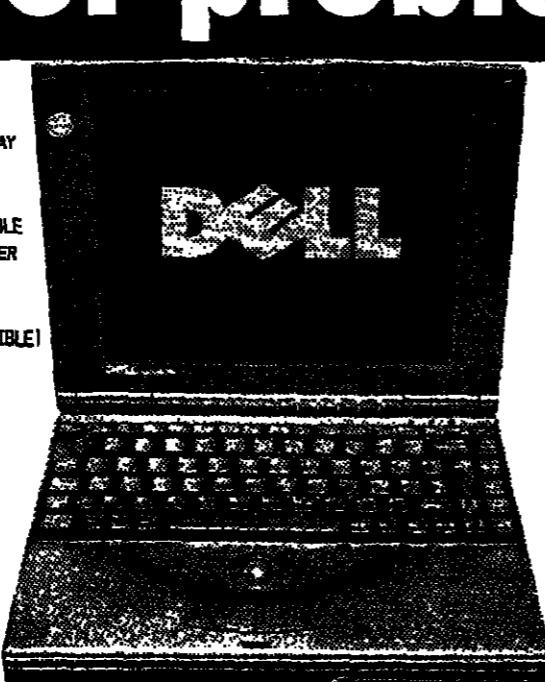
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TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE

Premiere for forgotten scenes from an epic life in politics

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

AN EPIC film tracing the life of the former prime minister, Lloyd George, presumed lost for decades is to receive its London premiere next month nearly 80 years later than scheduled.

The Story of David Lloyd George, a three-hour silent movie, was filmed in 1918 but mysteriously disappeared months later before it was cut

and completed, amid accusations of government interference, libel and blackmail.

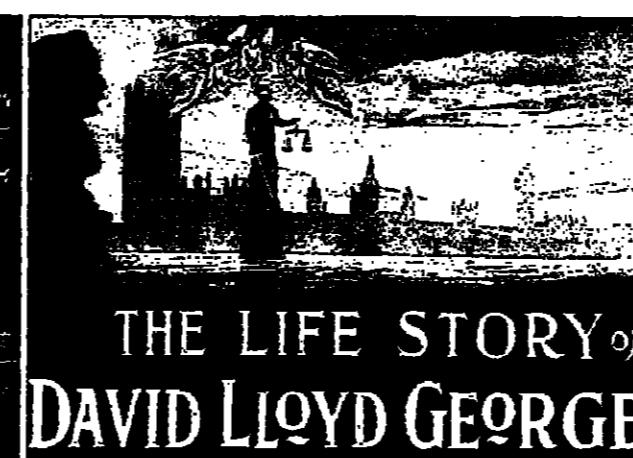
A collection of reels, believed to be the only surviving copy of the film, was discovered stuffed in a lead-lined casket in the barn of the statesman's youngest grandson Viscount Tenby. It was only a chance telephone call that rescued the film from oblivion.

"I had been invited to attend a screening of an amateur-made Lloyd George film at the Welsh Institute of Television and Film archive," Lord Tenby said. "I telephoned to say I couldn't go but mentioned it was a shame as I would have liked to compare the film with my version. There was a pause at the end of the phone and the girl tentatively asked me if I had any more films. I told her I'd got a barnful."

Days later, John Reed, preservation officer at the Institute, arrived at Lord Tenby's home with a van equipped



Missing, presumed lost: it was thought the only copy of the film was destroyed after it was bought by government agents for £20,000. The makers were accused of German sympathies



with special freezers to carry away the tins of potentially explosive films made of nitrate cellulose. "As we were clearing them out, there was a leader chest among the spools," Lord Tenby said. "It was obviously something set apart and was packed with spools."

After beginning the painstaking process of transferring the film on to modern materi-

al, Mr Reed said there was a moment of great excitement when technicians realised what they had stumbled upon. "We all assumed it would be newsreel but then we realised it was some sort of costume drama. Gradually, we recognised it as the long lost Lloyd George film."

The film, packed with scenes of suffragette clashes, trench warfare and election

euphoria, traces the career of the Welsh statesman from his humble birth in a cottage to the cabinet rooms.

It was directed by the celebrated Maurice Elvey, and stars Alma Reville, who later became Alfred Hitchcock's wife, as Lloyd George's daughter Megan, with the famous West End actor Norman Page in the title role.

Lord Tenby is also con-

vinced that his grandfather makes a cameo appearance in the final frames of the film in a victory parade scene.

The mystery surrounding the disappearance of the film, a sympathetic but uncontroversial portrait of the charismatic leader, has never been resolved. It was withdrawn by its film company, *Ideal* of Wardour Street, after a magazine article accused its direc-

tors of being German sympathisers. *Ideal* successfully sued for libel but in a recently discovered memoir Harry Rowson, one of the directors, said the film still had to be withdrawn.

He claimed solicitors from government offices had arrived at his home, given him £20,000 in notes and taken away the only copy of the film. Historians and film buffs alike have for years assumed it had been destroyed.

Now, after one screening in Cardiff, its long-aborted premiere in the capital is to be realised. It will be shown at the National Film Theatre on November 1 as part of a celebration of film archivists' work. "Nothing prepared us for the impact of the film on the big screen," Lord Tenby said.



Lloyd George pictured in 1933

Woman forgives husband for £60 flutter that paid off

By TIM JONES

ANNALY YATES was furious. Her husband, Darren, 30, had been down the bookie's again with money the family could not really afford.

By Saturday night, however, Mrs Yates was prepared to forgive him his £64 flutter — partly because she doesn't really object to him having a bet, but mainly because of the £50,000 he had picked up against huge odds. Mr Yates had backed jockey Frank Dettori to win all seven races at Ascot with a 50p Heinz accumulator.

The jokey, of Morecambe Lancashire, who has two-year-old daughter Nathalie, travelled to London to meet Dettori and said: "He is my hero. I could have kissed the ground he was galloping on." He plans now to buy his own racehorse and ask Dettori to ride it for him.

His wife said: "I don't mind him betting, but I wasn't so keen on him putting on the bet yesterday morning because £60 is a lot of money for us."

Dettori's feat of becoming the first jockey to ride all seven winners at one meeting on Saturday cheered punters across the country and plunged bookmakers into gloom. It was their worst day in the history of the sport. Scores of one shop bookies are expected to go out of business.

William Hill alone paid out more than £1.2m to five gamblers and said they had lost count of pay outs totalling more than £100. A Ladbrokes customer also made £500,000

after making a £5 each way accumulator bet.

A very bad Grand National is regarded by the industry as losses of £2 million. Saturday was on a different scale. Roy Hartnett of Coral said: "You cannot put it in context because there is no context."

Graham Sharp of William Hill said: "It is our equivalent of the American stock market crash. Quite simply, we spent the day just throwing money at people who came to us."

The fifth win was expensive, the sixth dismal and after the seventh it was time to put the lights out." Ladbrokers paid out almost £500,000 in Ireland and Paddy Power bookmakers also reported that one man won £132,000 at a Dublin branch.

Once Dettori had won Saturday's fourth race, the bookies, large and small knew

disaster was in the air and tried, too late, to offload bets to others — who knew the same.

He went into the record books with wins on *Wall Street* (2-1 favourite), *Diffident* (12-1), *Mark of Esteem* (100-1), *Decorated Hero* (7-1), *Fatefully* (7-4, favourite), *Lochangel* (5-4 joint favourite) and *Fujiyama Crest* (2-1 favourite).

Yesterday, Dettori, whose father was an Italian champion jockey, was basking in the glory and said he had received more congratulatory messages than had Bill Clinton did on becoming president.

Mr Yates, meanwhile, went down to his local William Hill's yesterday to pick up his cheque and place the same bet on Dettori. Mrs Yates said the telephone had not stopped ringing as friends and family called to congratulate them.

Punters at his local betting shop cheered and shook his hand as he backed Dettori to repeat his sweep of the board.

But the bookmakers were able to return the revolvers and bottles of whisky were returned to the drawers after the champion jockey failed to emulate his historic feat and managed to win only the last race.

Mr Sharp of William Hill said: "If he had repeated his success today there would have been a line of bookmakers queuing to jump off the stand at Ascot."

Race Card, Page 32

Beyond boundaries, Page 33

Darren Yates, who won £500,000 on his bet



Marie-Claire Harrison told judges she feared for the rain forests, but liked water sports and horse riding

Clitheroe queen pockets Tirana brass

By RICHARD OWEN

ALBANIA is not best known for its beauty contests but a British model was crowned Miss Europe 96 yesterday against the unlikely backdrop of Tirana's Stalinist-era Palace of Congresses.

In the process, Marie-Claire Harrison, 23, from Clitheroe, Lancashire, may have done more for Albania's image than five years of efforts by the post-Communist regime to put the country's backwardness and

isolation behind it. The trappings of western life were banned by the Enver Hoxha regime, one of the most paranoid Communist dictatorships in history.

But the current Miss England may have heralded the more glamorous future the new regime hopes to bring to Albanians. Miss Harrison, who won by impressing the judges in evening dress as well as swimwear, offered a glimpse of a world in which horse riding, dancing, water

sports and fencing are normal amusements for a 23-year-old. She told them her ideal man was Sting, not only because she found him attractive but also because he had "a strong character and has done a lot for the Amazon rain forests", a concern she shared.

Miss Harrison won \$20,000 (£13,300) in prize money and a traditional folk costume from Tirana city council, was given her crown by last year's winner, Monika Zidkova of the Czech Republic. The contest,

the 49th Miss Europe Competition, was broadcast to 200 million European viewers.

The other contestants, who like Miss Harrison had stayed in Albania for two weeks before yesterday's contest, said the sheer beauty of the countryside and coastline had won them over despite primitive conditions and communications problems.

"I think I'll come here for my holidays next year," joked Tracy Kemble of the United States, the compere.

Cats not man's best friend

By RUSSELL JENKINS

MEN have a secret relationship with their cats that they are ashamed to talk about, an academic survey has concluded. Contrary to popular belief they do turn to their pets for emotional support when the going gets tough but they just don't like to admit it. They think of their cats as playmates, not confidantes.

Dr John Bradshaw, director of the Anthrozoology Institute at Southampton University, discovered that there is a fundamental difference in the way men and women react to their cats. He interviewed 77

women cat-owners and 42 men owners — aged between 18 and 84 — and asked them to describe their relationship with the animal. The results from women are much as the academics expected. They used words like companionship, affectionate and reassuring. What one would expect," said Dr Bradshaw.

Men were less enthusiastic about opening up about their emotional pet life. They were even more reticent about talking about those times when their cat has been "there for them". "When we looked at the men, they were less likely to turn to cats but,

nonetheless, the ones who did needed to describe cats in a different dimension," said Dr Bradshaw, co-presenter of television's *Cat Crazy* programme. "The words they used were playful, excitable, attention-seeking. They were grouped together as if they enjoyed slightly boisterous interaction, rather than a close quiet chat. The relationship was bordering on child-like."

Dr Bradshaw believes that men are looking to cats to fill the gap traditionally occupied by dogs. Their relationship with the family cat is a substitute for the dog they are not allowed to have.

Bye-law aims to break up walkies in packs

By A STAFF REPORTER

PROFESSIONAL dog walkers who exercise dozens of pets at a time on one of London's largest open spaces are being brought to heel.

Britain's first bye-law to control them comes into effect on Wimbledon Common tomorrow after complaints from people who have been intimidated by walkers exercising as many as 30 dogs at a time. The bye-law is being introduced by the Wimbledon Common Conservators after approval by the Environment Department.

Owners who cannot spare time to exercise their dogs turn increasingly to companies charging about £6 a day to collect pets and take them for walks. Some walkers operating individually charge as much as £7 per dog per hour.

Jim Reader, head ranger for the 1,100 acres of Wimbledon Common, says: "It is very intimidating to see a pack of dogs running loose."

The new law restricts people to exercising a maximum of four dogs at a time. Those who continue to exercise more after a ranger's warning face a £25 fine. Mr Reader, who walks his own Irish setter and golden retriever on the common, says: "A Yorkshire terrier has been killed by a rottweiler being exercised by a professional walker. Not only are these packs of dogs frightening but they also leave a lot of mess."

The conservators stand is backed by the National Canine Defence League. Its chief executive, Clarissa Baldwin, says: "We believe it is not responsible or safe to walk more than four dogs in a public place at any one time. It would be almost impossible to control them in an emergency such as a dogfight or accident."

The league says dog walkers should either have a governing body to set standards or be licensed by the local authority. But professional dog trainer and walker Mark Thompson, who runs The Dog House in Wandsworth, says the new bye-law would force walkers on to other open spaces and would penalise responsible handlers. He and his two helpers each exercise 10 animals at a time on Wimbledon Common and other commons and dogs were put through an obedience training course before being let off the lead.

Shake a leg or risk a break, fans told

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE perils of being an armchair football supporter have been highlighted by doctors after two fans suffered serious injuries while watching England play Germany in the Euro 96 semi-final.

The women supporters were injured after watching Alan Shearer, the England striker, score the opening goal. They leapt out of their seats to celebrate by jumping up and down in front of their television sets — and broke their legs.

Experts said their injuries were worse than would be expected among the players in the match. One woman, 36, fractured her heel while the second, 54, cracked the top of her shin bone, requiring an operation to insert two

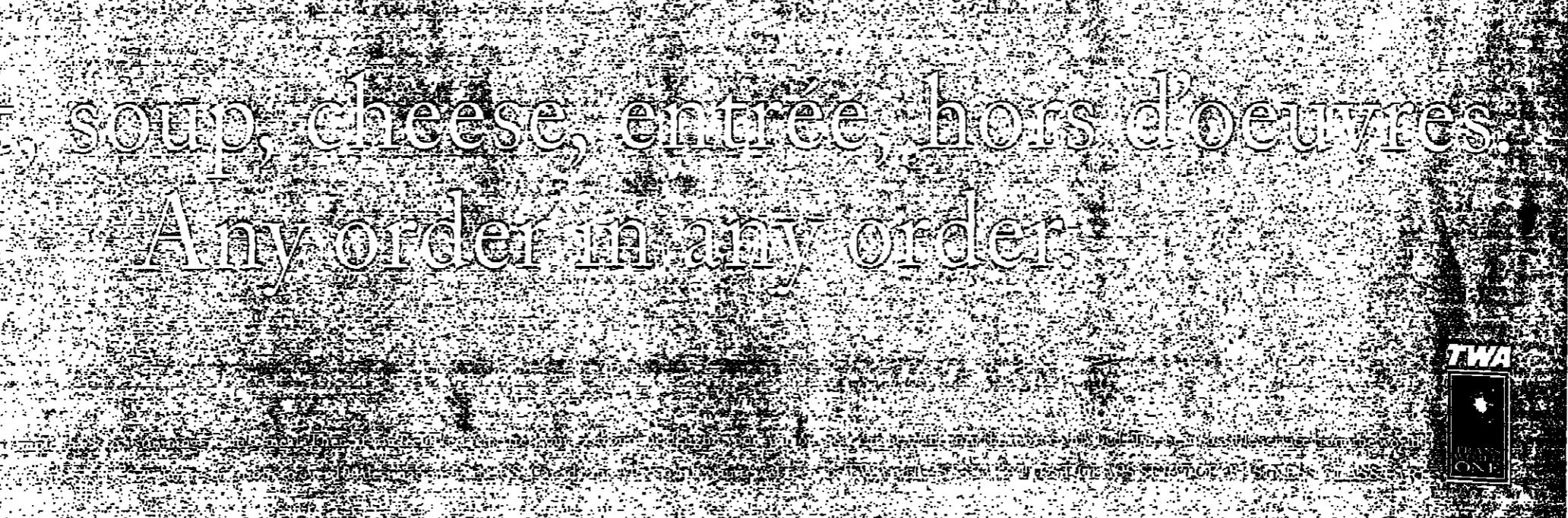
screws and a bone graft. Dr Peter Hallam, who treated the women at Barnet General Hospital, said he was astonished at the severity of the injuries. "It is the kind of thing you normally see in someone who has jumped off a bridge in a suicide attempt." A third patient who had broken a leg in the excitement after Shearer's goal had arrived at the hospital's casualty department but had been treated elsewhere.

Watching football, especially at stadiums and in pubs, was "quite dangerous," he said. "I have seen people who have passed out with excitement. I have not seen heart attacks but they certainly occur. I can only suggest that if people are watching football on television that they should wear adequate training shoes. They are more absorbent if they

jump up and down." Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, he suggests that armchair supporters should take the same precautions as the players. "Perhaps this sort of injury might be prevented by a pre-match warm up and the correct footwear," he says.

Lynda Daley, chairwoman of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine, said: "I am absolutely amazed. These are the sort of injuries you see after a road accident. I can't imagine what they were doing."

Dr Robert Byrne of the British Association of Sports Medicine said that heart attacks and strokes were the biggest risks among supporters. But he dismissed the warm-up idea. "We can't get the athletes to do it so I don't think there is much hope with Joe Public."



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Duffle coats make way for designer raincoats as delegates don uniform for Blackpool

New model army marches in step with Blair's tune

By JAMES LANDALE AND ALICE THOMSON

TONY BLAIR'S path will be smoothed this week by a new model army of delegates to the party conference, which opens today.

As they stepped off their trains at Blackpool North station, it was clear that most of them are middle class professionals. The delegates, from constituencies around the country, stood out from the daytrippers. Many were wearing smart suits beneath designer raincoats and were carrying briefcases.

They also stood out from the smattering of old Labour who still wear duffle coats even the young members. More than eight out of ten delegates that *The Times* talked to were new Labourites drawn into the party by Tony Blair.

Labour is now in exactly the opposite situation to the one it faced in the 1970s and early 1980s when the leadership was forced to rely on the support of moderate trade union leaders to defeat radical motions from extreme constituency activists. The 750 constituency delegates have become more and more influential as the unions' power has declined.

Mr Blair will rely on these new conference-goers to keep the trade unions and old establishment figures such as Baroness Castle of Blackburn under control. The Labour leader is helped by the fact that there are an increasing number of women who are particularly loyal to him.

Also for the first time, constituency delegates will have 50 per cent of the vote at conference, up 20 percentage points from last year. The trade unions' share has been cut from 70 to 50 per cent.

Talking to the delegates as they stood waiting for taxis in the pouring rain, most were entranced by the new Labour rhetoric and see Mr Blair as the greatest hope for the future of the party. They are prepared to accept his autocratic style of leadership as long as he wins the next election.

The Labour hierarchy has left nothing to chance. It has ensured that the delegates have been on a series of training weekends during September. This conference will be the first for 80 per cent of delegates and officials want them to be well briefed on the party's arcane rules and how to deal with the media.

More than 20 per cent of the delegates became Labour supporters after Tony Blair became leader two years ago and have few links with Labour's



Labour's chances of winning the next election.

Only a few expressed concern. Andy Howell, president of Labour Reform, the centre-left coalition of party activists, accused the leadership of trying to control delegates.

"They have been inviting them to training weekends, saying it [conference] is not about policy or debate, but about the public image of Labour," he said. "They are being heavily coached in how to behave. There has been some upset about this."

Many delegates appear to have been imbued with a sense of caution and even fear towards the press. After one training course, as a group of activists returned home by train, some new delegates said so far as talking in whispers just in case some journalists were in the same coach.

Yesterday several delegates said they would only speak to *The Times* after they had secured permission from their regional officer.

There is a sense that all this central control is getting a bit silly," one delegate said.

While delegates are clearly keen not to rock the boat, many feel they should not be taken for granted by the leadership. On one of the training days, delegates were shocked when a leading Labour official referred to party supporters and activists as "the sales force".

John Williams, the delegate for Darlington, where he leads the borough council, said that the majority of delegates would back Mr Blair against the unions. "They overwhelmingly support Tony and the way the party is going."

Maureen Casey, 42, the delegate for Burnley, was a keen supporter of Mr Blair. "It is vital to get in power and Tony Blair is our last chance.

Blair knows what is needed to win and we have to trust him."

Alex Silver, 19, a delegate from the University of Salford, said that he would not have joined Labour under Neil Kinnock but was a keen supporter of Mr Blair. "The reforms had to be done, however ugly they looked to old Labour."

David Milton, from Tavistock, Somerset, said that Labour was going in the right direction now and that was because of Mr Blair. But he added: "There are issues I am prepared to keep silent about if it means we keep party unity."



Williams: said majority backed Blair's direction



Moira Hoffman, from Leominster, joined Labour two years ago, inspired by Tony Blair, and is now attending her first party conference

'We want to convert the whole country'

ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

NEW BLAIRITE

IMMACULATE in a tweed suit and beige overcoat with matching luggage, Moira Hoffman, arriving for her first conference, was typical of the new breed of Labour delegate.

Mrs Hoffman, 62, from Leominster, Hereford and Worcester, joined the party two years ago, inspired by Tony Blair's rhetoric. She had always tended to be on the left but had felt excluded by the party's male, "cloth cap" image and thought that Labour had made itself unelectable.

"Tony Blair is inspirational. Before

Having taken a week off work to

attend the conference, she is determined to attend as many fringe events in Blackpool as possible. "I don't think there will be time for the big dipper."

She is worried that "old Labour" might try to hijack the conference. "We can't make wild promises without costing it. Old Labour must believe that we still care, and when we get into power we will put policies in place to make sure people are treated fairly and equally. They are suspicious, but this shouldn't be a class thing; we want to convert the whole of the country to our approach."

Mrs Hoffman has been on training weekends for party activists and was sent a wedge of research to read before the conference. She knows the party line on everything from fishing to car clamping. "We have four challenges before the new millennium. To make Britain better off and safer, to make politicians more accountable and to have more influence abroad. Mr Blair said that on TV and I was so impressed I took it down."

Mrs Hoffman, who hopes she will have of a chance to address the conference, and is particularly interested in rural issues, added: "Mr Blair needs two terms if we can redress the disasters of Thatcherism and the culture of me-ism."

'People want commitments — not vague promises'

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

PARTY VETERAN

HUNDREDS of young new Labourites may be thronging the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, but Dorothy MacEduo is a party veteran.

The fifty-year-old delegate from Finchley and Golders Green, north London, a Labour member for 30 years, has been to the annual conference in several years. While she denies being "old Labour", she does express concern about the direction the party is taking.

Pensions are the central issue for Mrs MacEduo. She backs the call by Baroness Castle of Blackburn that Labour commit itself to restoring the link between state pensions and earnings, something fiercely resisted by

party leadership. "It would be a big vote-winner."

Mrs MacEduo believes that Labour should make its policies clear to the electorate and not just rely on the popularity of the leader to garner votes. "People think Tony Blair is a nice chap but it is not enough," she said.

She said that Labour's "spin-doctors" should not, in their wish-to-avoid stories in the media about "party splits", be so ready to stifle internal debate. "We all want to win the election. It is just that it should be possible to have a debate on how to do that."

Conference delegates should have their say, she added. "We are all here to be loyal to the party but there is nothing wrong with debate."



Dorothy MacEduo, a party member for 30 years

Technical wizards ready with new shade of red

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR one brief moment, the vast set in the Winter Gardens ballroom was dominated yesterday by a crucial question flashed onto a large video screen: "What will happen if Labour win the next election?"

The question was left tantalisingly unanswered as technical wizards rehearsed for the conference, but it touched on the key issue that the imposing stage backdrop is intended to address. If the video technicians were unable to flash the answer onto the screen, more pedagogic workers managed to put it into simple clear words on the huge red and grey stage set.

"Labour's pledges," shouted the 40ft high backdrop: "smaller classes, tough on crime, shorter waiting lists, more jobs for the young and a strong economy."

The whole set and the hundreds of crimson banners that have turned the Winter Gardens complex into an indoor Red Square, are intended to point to the future. At every turn, delegates will be bombarded with the word *New*.

"New Labour" is coupled on the hundreds of banners

variously conveying other messages of novelty — "New opportunities, New Scotland, New care, New prosperity and New Wales."

In the conference hall itself, party members, nervous about the newness of it all, will be comforted by the familiarity of old Labour Red lots of it.

According to one poetic interpretation, the massive two-tonne set marries the deep red of "vibrant radicalism", with the dove grey hue intended to signify a party that cares for society. To one more pragmatic member of the

design team, "it looks brilliant on television". Red — or more precisely print colour Pantone 184 — covers the bottom half of the set that stretches the entire width of the hall, making it the biggest to dominate a party conference.

In contrast, the tiny platform — with room for only a dozen senior party members — may well be the smallest. Party strategists want the conference to listen to the speaker at the podium and not to be distracted by Kremlin-style ranks of apparatchiks.

The talents of the lighting teams can turn the deep red from the plain lurid to a warm fireside glow, perhaps depending on whether the conference is being addressed by a leftwing firebrand or a modern democratic socialist/social democrat.

Either way, the audience — both inside the hall and in armchairs around the country — is supposed to be soothed by the calming grey upper half of the backdrop, into which the red base merges. "The set will give a warmth to the conference," one strategist explained, "and help bring a positive atmosphere to our final gathering before the election."



Lottery move 'stage-managed'

LABOUR has accused the Government of timing an announcement on education funds to upstage its conference. It had been reported that the Millennium Commission would today announce backing for a £20 million plan for a University of the Highlands linking colleges. George Rob-

ertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, addressing Scottish delegates in Blackpool yesterday, said: "It beggars belief that an announcement being made on day one of Labour's conference is pure coincidence."

This welcome cash injection deserves better than being just

another stage-managed ramp for [the Scottish Secretary] Michael Forsyth."

The commission said it was independent of government. "There is no truth in the suggestion that an announcement is being made on Monday just to coincide with the Labour conference."

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Castle rejects pensions compromise

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS CASTLE of Blackburn rejected a compromise deal yesterday aimed at preventing a battle over pensions at the party conference.

Lady Castle made it clear that she has no intention of giving up her fight for a £5.5 billion package to boost state pensions. Party and union "fixers" tried to broker a deal before Wednesday's conference vote on the matter, but she refused to accept a proposal negotiated with the help of Jack Jones, former general secretary of the TGWU transport union. "I don't think that will satisfy any of the delegates," she said.

Party sources hope to secure conference backing for a statement from the National Executive Committee that was agreed yesterday morning. It proposes a new commission to look at all pensions, including occupational pensions, in the wider context of care for the elderly.

But the new commission, which will have representations from pensioners' groups, will not have a remit

Party leadership braced for defeat over restoring link with earnings

to reopen the debate about whether pensions should rise in line with earnings, as Lady Castle has demanded. Yesterday Mr Jones, who has been campaigning with her to boost pensions, indicated that he would accept the compromise but party sources said that Wednesday's vote was still in the balance.

Party officials concede that the leadership may still be defeated on a composite motion pressing for the link with earnings, which was dropped from Labour policy earlier this summer, to be restored. They are pressing for the two constituencies that have put forward the pension motions to avoid a vote by agreeing for the motions to be remitted.

Labour officials point out that Lady Castle's proposals, which would cost

an estimated £3.5 billion in the first year of a Labour government and £5.5 billion in the first Parliament, go much further than most unions want. But many unions are mandated to restoring the link with earnings and may have to vote accordingly.

Yesterday Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, and Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, had meetings with Lady Castle to try to persuade her to drop her campaign. But Lady Castle, who is speaking at a Tribune rally tomorrow night, gave no indication that she was prepared to climb down.

Speaking on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*, Lady Castle criticised the Labour leadership for "cherry-picking" from the Berrill report on the welfare state commissioned by the

late John Smith. "Little bits of it have been cherry-picked out into a mish-mash of rather vague policy pension statements."

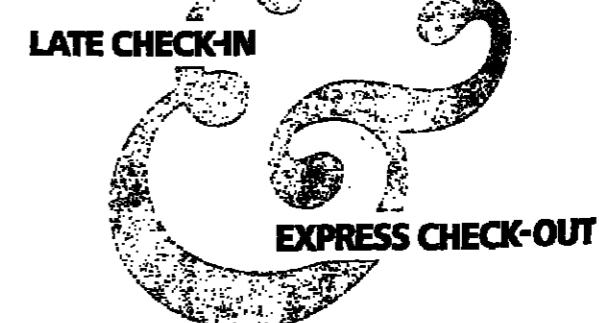
The policy document *New Life, New Britain*, published in July, contained a series of "unspecified pension entitlements" she said. But she made it clear that Gordon Brown was now betraying traditional Labour principles by abandoning the long-standing party policy of restoring the link with earnings. "At the last minute, we are being asked to turn upside down the whole of our traditional policy, which is a state insurance scheme, a contributory one, a compulsory one. That is the betrayal of the welfare state."

Referring to the latest compromise of a pension commission, she accused

the Labour leadership of "running scared" because of the strong support her campaign had gathered. She made clear that her proposals did not amount to a "mad spending spree" but she conceded that party unity could prevail during Wednesday's debate. "If Gordon Brown had not put the frighteners on — about not spending any money — if it wasn't for that the conference would vote overwhelmingly for our proposal."

Mr Brown argued on the same programme that he hoped there would be a meeting of minds, with both sides agreeing the best deal for pensioners that could be afforded. He said he had great respect for Lady Castle but any spending decisions would have to be taken in the light of economic circumstances. "The old-fashioned view was to link pensions in line with prices or earnings, whichever was greater. We will look at this in government but only in the context of a tough approach to public spending."

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Left wing demands higher taxes for the rich

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEFT-WING Labour MPs challenged Tony Blair yesterday to abandon his attempts to woo middle-class voters and to introduce a progressive tax system based on people's ability to pay.

The Campaign Group of MPs, ignoring appeals for unity, mocked the leadership's obsession with spin-doctors, attacked moves to end universal child benefit, and criticised the pace of internal party reform that had disenchanted thousands of party activists.

Diane Abbot, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, criticised Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, over the decision to end child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds and replace it with an education and training grant. She told the fringe meeting: "If Gordon Brown is concerned that wives of millionaires get child benefit I have a solution: put up the taxes of the millionaires." Labour was much more than a press release from the spin-doctors. "It's a crusade or it is nothing."

Alan Simpson, secretary of the group, said that the modernisation of the party risked being seen as nothing more than "candyfloss" unless it was accompanied by commitments to help pensioners and the unemployed. The draft manifesto was not enough to deal with the scale of problems Labour would find in government.

Mr Simpson, MP for Nottingham South, said: "We are nearing the end of the phoney war that exists between spin-doctors rather than serious politicians."

Speaker after speaker appealed for the principles of universality to be enshrined in the welfare state. Mr Simpson drew thunderous applause when he declared: "We should say we will pay for it out of a progressive tax system that takes from those who have the ability to pay."

He added: "Beyond the razzmatazz and what remains of the candyfloss, I believe it is possible to define a set of priorities that Labour will have to address — we will be unafraid to call them socialist."

Lew Adams, general secretary of the ASLEF train drivers' union, pledged a fight to preserve any attempt to sever the links between the Labour movement and the party. "This is the new danger in new Labour. Some people apparently believe that the only certain way of ensuring victory is to jettison all our principles and to pander to fairweather friends in the middle class," he said.

"Labour voters are getting confused, concerned and ultimately disenchanted."

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LABOUR'S CONFERENCE AGENDA



HEALTH:
Chris Smith, Shadow Health Secretary, will cutline NHS plans, promising to transfer £100 million from bureaucracy to frontline care. In stark contrast to Labour's 1992 programme, he will put the case for improving the Tory reforms rather than ditching them



ECONOMY:
Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, will treat a tightrope on tax and spending, the issues that lost Labour the last election. His reluctance to go into detail risks a backlash from activists who want big spending pledges and a more redistributive tax policy.



UNEMPLOYMENT:
Party leaders face possible defeat on a national minimum wage and employment rights. Unions will demand a £4.26 hourly rate and full rights from first day in a new job. The leadership will insist that the minimum rate will be settled after a Labour victory



NEC ELECTION:
All eyes will be on whether Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, will manage to keep her seat on the national executive after the controversy over her son's schooling



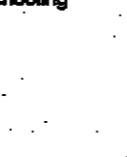
FOREIGN AFFAIRS:
Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, will demand that Britain take a lead in Europe but is likely to duck the issue of a single currency. Several motions call on Labour to rule out a single currency in the next Parliament or press for a delay



WOMEN:
Delegates will seek assurances that Tony Blair is planning new measures to ensure equal representation for women in Parliament. Many activists are worried about his decision to drop the policy of women-only shortlists for selecting parliamentary candidates



TRANSPORT:
Andrew Smith, Shadow Transport Secretary, will face calls for a tougher stand on rail privatisation as he tries to shift policy in favour of greater regulation. The new position follows Labour's realisation that it could not afford to renationalise also faces defeat on plans to scrap child benefit for older children



EDUCATION:
David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, will outline revised policy embracing more selection in state schools plus a graduate tax to fund university education. He will pledge that education will be the first port of call for extra spending



HOME AFFAIRS:
Jack Straw will call for tough measures to combat crime, and harder penalties for young offenders. He will defend Labour's devolution plans against motions questioning the party's commitment to a tax-raising Scottish parliament



MANIFESTO:
Delegates will vote on Labour's entire draft manifesto, which contains the bulk of the party's policy for the next Parliament. Next month 400,000 party members will be balloted on the same document



GENERAL ELECTION:
John Prescott, deputy party leader, will rally the troops for the campaign. The conference will close with a muted rendition of the Red Flag, which has once again been reprieved, and Auld Lang Syne

Blair warned of split unless he says no to EMU

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ANDREW PIERCE

TONY BLAIR was sent a clear warning by his backbenchers yesterday that the Labour Party faces serious divisions unless he rules out Britain's early membership of a single currency.

Labour MPs rounded on the leadership for failing to take a firm stance against monetary union, claiming that Mr Blair would face "the same dilemmas" as John Major over Europe. The party's Eurosceptics intensified pressure on Mr Blair to state clearly that he would not take Britain into a single currency during the first term of a Labour government.

However, Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, tried to calm the sceptics by reiterating that Labour would not join a single currency without the consent of the voters. He said that the party would seek approval either through a general election or a referendum. "We are the only party that has given the British people a referendum on Europe," he said.

Peter Shore, one of the leading Labour Eurosceptics, was joined at fringe meetings by a string of left-wing backbenchers in fighting closer links with Europe. Mr Shore told one meeting: "Tony Blair

will face the same harsh realities and dilemmas as John Major and Margaret Thatcher before him."

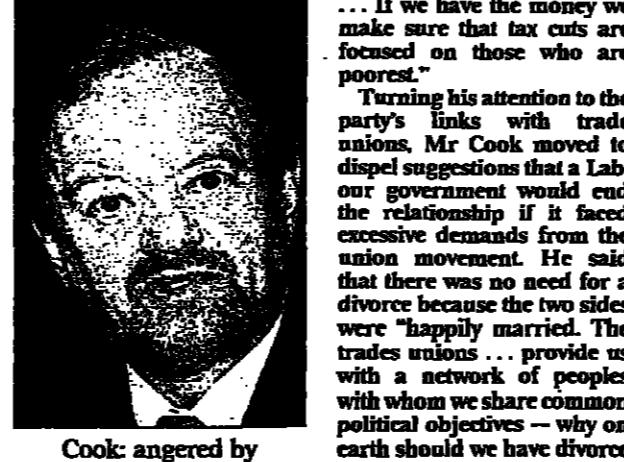
Alan Simpson, Jeremy Corbyn and Ken Livingstone were among leavers who pointed to widespread fears about closer links with Europe. About 50 Euro-sceptic MPs and many trade unionists fear that meeting the economic criteria for entry could result in huge job losses and billions wiped off public spending.

Mr Livingstone, MP for Brent East, told a fringe meeting: "If we join EMU with the commitment of the Maastricht Treaty, you will lock us into a recession and break the Labour government. That will let in the Tories."

Mr Cook, speaking at a fringe meeting of the Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists, said that Labour was absolutely clear that the British people would not be taken into a single currency without their consent. "That is not only right it is recognition of the inevitable," he said.

But he resisted calls to specify, before the election campaign, whether Labour would sign up to a single currency.

There is a very real danger that we're ignoring the needs of a minority in society who find themselves in a very



Cook: angered by newspaper report

ment, he had courage to have his sight on. Thinking what had to be done, seeing what had to be done. That's what you want in a driver," he said.

"It's called 'leadership' and when people like me, like on Clause Four, say: 'Hang on! I'm a bit of a Doubting Thomas here, I'm concerned about it, I think you've got to have the courage and conviction that say change is ongoing, change is the Labour Party, change is about new Labour.'

Conducting a fine balancing act Mr Prescott made clear that Labour's new vision combined economic realism with social justice. He refused to be drawn on whether those over £100,000 should be on higher tax rates. While he supported moves by Gordon Brown to close tax loopholes which were now exploited by million-

aires, he said there was no proposal for a 50p tax rate for those on over £100,000.

The most important objective was to get more people into jobs and off welfare benefits — to unlock the potential of the people. "Wealth creation. The Labour Party is as concerned about wealth creation as it is about wealth distribution. Highlighting elements of Mr Blair's speech today, which he helped to draft, he added: "It's about fairness, it's about justice, it's about business, it's about partnership."

He also denied that that there were any plans to break the link with the trade unions completely. However, he conceded that there could be further changes which trade union leaders themselves favoured. Questioned on

the row over pensions, he made clear that he had backed the policy for bigger state pensions in 1992 but he realised the money was no longer available. "We have to face the reality of resources here, about what money is available. The argument will take place on the conference floor against all these priorities that we are putting up to the electorate. We are within months of the election and we have to balance what we'll promise against what we'll be able to find from those public finances."

What I am trying to say to you at the moment is not that I think that pensioners should not have a right to be sharing in the prosperity of the country. What I am saying is that our priority is to make sure the prosperity of the country can now increase."

Prescott praises his leader's 'vision and courage'

By JILL SHERMAN



JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday gave his backing to Tony Blair's attempts to modernise Labour, claiming that the party leader had "vision, commitment, courage" and could see what had to be done.

The deputy Labour leader admitted that he personally had misgivings about Mr Blair's decision to scrap Clause Four commitment to nationalisation, but said: "He was right on that." In a clear sign that he has decided to put his misgivings about Mr Blair's leadership style behind him — at least in public — he admitted that sometimes he had accused of him going too fast. "I've said that over Clause Four but this man had vision, he had commit-

Bar Conference: Opposition sets out policies on funding and judicial appointments

Labour promises to bear down hard on legal aid costs

REPORTS BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would "bear down hard" on legal aid costs, flogging the 1 per cent of big cases that consumed more than £100 million almost half — of the criminal legal aid budget, the Shadow Lord Chancellor told the Bar Conference yesterday.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, added that he regarded the Government's White Paper on legal aid as a "dead letter". Its proposed test of "deservingness" was unworkable although Labour wanted to strengthen the merits test to ensure the right cases qualified for legal aid.

Detailing for the first time Labour's policy on lawyers and the courts, Lord Irvine told the conference, sponsored by Allied Dunbar and *The Times*, that lawyers could expect no more money under Labour. There would be no exemption from its policy of prudent public finance.

He also urged action to tackle the low public esteem for the law. There must be a new "co-operative endeavour" to raise the public standing of the law and restore legal aid to the status of a public social service.

He called for further re-

LAW REFORMS

forms to the way judges were appointed, including advertising of High Court posts, more involvement of lay people in the selection process and the creation of an advisory Judicial Appointments Commission. And he sounded a note of caution over the civil justice reforms proposed by Lord Woolf, the Lord Chief Justice, saying lack of funds could put the Government in confrontation with the judiciary.

Lord Irvine said that "the tabloid-influenced public" saw costs differently from lawyers who made most of their money from legal aid cases. "And when they read about super silks in the private sector who are alleged to earn more than £1 million per annum, that feeds into a belief that all lawyers are fat cats, although some are far from others."

He added: "When the Bar complains that a QC will be paid a flat rate fee of £150 for an hour in court and £450 for half a day, with a junior at half these rates, the majority of the public thinks these sums are wealth untold."

They did not know about the Bar's overheads or preparation for court work. Nor was the reputation of the law enhanced when legal aid was granted for long and complex cases and to those whose lifestyles showed they should not have it, he said.

He promised to review plans for legal aid block contracts with solicitors, and for standard or fixed fees for civil cases, which the Government had proposed "without prior negotiation".

Lord Irvine backed the aims of Lord Woolf's proposed re-

POOR FACILITIES

JUDGES trying important civil disputes in the regions are forced to use "seedy" court buildings with no facilities and to stay in third-rate government-approved hotels, a High Court judge told the conference.

Judge Weeks, QC, who sits as a Chancery and mercantile judge in Bristol, said there needed to be more full-time High Court judges to try civil work in the regions and better support facilities.

The present poor conditions resulted in a "disaffected judiciary and great difficulties in recruitment", he said. When High Court judges travelled to the regions, they mainly dealt with criminal cases and not civil work.

"The vast bulk of the High Court civil work outside London is done by circuit judges who sit full time as High Court

judges for 70 per cent of the pay," he added. "They have no clerical or other assistance and if they want to type a judgment or write a letter they have to do it themselves."

"When they are away from home, they stay in third-rate government-approved hotels on an allowance which is less than that given to a JP."

As a result, he said, solicitors and litigants felt that they were getting a second-class service, while paying High Court fees.

He said that when new courts were built, they tended to be used for criminal work. "If you steal a Mars bar in the West Country, you are tried in the Bristol Palais

de Justice, with every modern facility. If you are seeking an administration order for a company with a turnover of £50 million, you do it in a decaying 19th-century building with no proper heating, no conference room and one public telephone shared with battered wives and their offspring." He called for the merging of the Chancery and mercantile courts because the distinction made "no sense" in Bristol.

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There also needed to be more

Single-currency opponents can make mischief for beleaguered Kohl

The political game in Europe is changing, and the next fortnight of party conferences will show if British politicians have woken up to the fact. Like failed military leaders, many politicians get stuck fighting the last war and fail to see the next one coming.

When John Major and his fellow European Union leaders sit down in Dublin this Saturday, they will debate second-order subjects: fiorino, technocratic schemes for beefing up the Maastricht Treaty. But all the same, fringe meetings and conference halls in Blackpool and



later Brighton will echo to the rattle of rhetorical gunfire from the well-dug trenches on each side of the sovereignty debate. Mr Major will swear to resist any transfer of power

to Brussels, but duck and weave to avoid ruling out the single currency; Tony Blair will mix a little more flexibility into his soundbites, but try to leave the clear impression that the national interest will be safe in his hands.

That was the last battle strategy and tactics now change. The only game in town for British politicians is to decide whether they work towards Britain joining the single currency or exploit whatever opportunities occur to derail the whole enterprise. If the large and ill-assorted coalition that fears that the single currency will damage

all of Europe follows the logic of its convictions, its members should be making mischief for Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France as they struggle towards 1998.

In that crowded year, both Germany and France are to hold general elections and EU leaders will sit down, probably under Mr Blair's chairmanship, to vote on who joins the single currency.

The challenge lies in designing subtle sabotage. A few days spent in Germany convinced me that, while Herr Kohl may manage to

win over the majority of German public opinion still opposed to monetary union, he hasn't got it in the bag. The mood is oddly fatalistic. Germans have almost become reluctant to discuss the single currency, as if unwilling to admit that the project is brittle and elitist while at the same time confessing that they are powerless to stop it.

Herr Kohl has already repulsed an assault from the Bavarian Right on the euro; he now faces one from the Left. *Bleiben für den euro* (Staying for the euro) said the headline in the left-of-centre *Die Woche*. Gerhard

Schroeder, a leading German Social Democrat, last week openly hinted that he would like British politicians to try to stop monetary union at the last moment by blocking attempts to bend the qualification rules. Without rule-bending on a big scale, the euro won't be born.

John Redwood may be urging Mr Major to try this tactic, but he will find it hard to pose as the man who insists that the EU sticks to the letter of Maastricht. That is exactly what Mr Blair, Robin Cook and Gordon Brown should do. Nothing could be more subversive or

more unimpeachably European than to argue that any single currency must be launched and run properly.

When he talks about the Maastricht deficit rule, Mr Brown should always be careful to say that 3 per cent means 3 per cent, not 3.1 per cent, not 3.2. Such a task might land the Shadow Chancellor in some unaccustomed company, but European issues mould odd alliances.

Mr Brown's stock with Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, and the Bundesbank would rise.

Most importantly, a British campaign insisting that the treaty criteria be observed in spirit and letter would be deeply embarrassing for Herr Kohl, who hopes that everybody will look the other way when the time comes to massage the figures. He could hardly complain about a British Labour Party preaching good behaviour.

And making the German Chancellor look lax might increase the odds that ordinary Germans will tell their leaders that Europe is not ready for monetary union.

GEORGE BROCK.

Sense of disaster steals over Dole's flagging campaign

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

AS BOB DOLE'S plane approached Detroit, thick black smoke billowed from a fire on the airfield's perimeter and fire engines rushed to douse the flames. It turned out to be a "disaster-training drill", prompting inevitable quips about Motown preparing for a candidate whose campaign is going up in smoke.

A day on the trail with Mr Dole shows his \$100 million (£64 million) campaign really is a developing disaster. It has all the trappings of a serious White House bid — planes, motorcades and police escorts — but lacks passion, purpose or any sense of urgency.

With just five weeks left Mr Dole, 73, trails far behind President Clinton but this was his first extended trip outside the capital in four days and even then he did not arrive at Washington's National Airport until 9.30am.

Mr Dole, his aides and a few favoured journalists boarded his plane, a 727 named the Citizen's Ship. The rest of his substantial media entourage flies on a second 727 they have dubbed the Bullock. After weeks trailing the Republican nominee

Over a few carefully

US approves Africa force

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

THE Clinton Administration has approved plans to set up and pay for a standing army of African soldiers to intervene to protect civilians threatened by the collapse of the continent's nation states.

State Department officials say the African Crisis Response Force would be partly funded, trained and equipped by the US and European countries.

Long mooted by US offici-

als, the force of around 10,000 men would be kept on standby and deployed where civilian casualties were expected to be high.

The cost of maintaining such a force is estimated at about \$25 million (£16 million) a year, and \$40 million when it is required to be operational. It would not be allowed to take sides, but would set up safe areas where civilians could be protected.

screened questions the audience of 2,000 makes for the doors.

Even among these hardcore Republicans there is minimal enthusiasm for the Dole economic plan. John Smith, chairman of General Motors, says he wants deficit reduction. Nancy Dedenbach, a Republican councillor, calls the plan a non-starter and her party's candidate a loser.

Mr Dole flies on to Ohio, a state without which no Republican has ever won the White House. Here he trails by nine points. His venue is Shelby, a rural town of 9,000 where his arrival causes real excitement if only because no presidential candidate has ever visited before. Unfortunately most of the town is barred, as the event is invitation only.

This is one of the "listening to America" forums Mr Dole conducts with friendly hand-picked audiences around the country — though the time for listening has surely passed. Afterwards Michael Farley, 18, a Young Republican, complains: "They didn't give us a candidate."

Over dinner seasoned Dole-watchers doubt he swayed, or even met, one uncommitted voter that day. They compare his astonishingly light schedule with the President's frequent dawn-to-midnight outings. They lament Mr Dole's lightweight team, and one distinguished Washington bureau chief deems it the worst campaign since Barry Goldwater's in 1964.

What baffles them is Mr Dole's cheerfulness as his long political career draws to such a sorry end. He even jokes about it. He recently quipped that as head of the American Red Cross his wife Elizabeth visited many disaster areas — "not including my campaign".

Long mooted by US offici-



A symbol of protest

organised by the French group Handicap International, were also held in Lyons and Ottawa, Canada, which is to host an interna-

tional conference on mines, starting on Thursday. The "shoe-ins" were held to draw attention to the threat posed by anti-personnel mines that have killed or mutilated more than 600,000 civilians in the past 20 years. According to Handicap International, which makes artificial limbs, 110 million such mines are buried in more than 70 countries.

Lebed urges Yeltsin to stand down

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

view published yesterday that Mr Yeltsin should step down while he is unable to work at full capacity because of his forthcoming heart operation.

General Lebed's fears were echoed by Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, who gave a warning that Russia could face Brezhnev-style stagnation unless a healthy leader occupies the Kremlin. In an interview in Moscow with *The Times*, Mr Gorbachev said that his rival

was physically not up to the responsibilities of state.

General Lebed said Russia was now in an "unclear situation", with the President evidently out of action but still formally in control.

General Lebed himself has not met Mr Yeltsin for several weeks and has hinted that the situation is even more serious because all power in Russia is concentrated in the hands of the President. When I look at [Yeltsin] now I immediately see Brezhnev and Chernenko all over again."

the country in the name of the President. I absolutely cannot accept that."

Mr Gorbachev said: "We lost at least 10 valuable years because of leaders who were 25, 30 and sometimes 100 per cent out of action. Today the situation is even more serious because all power in Russia is concentrated in the hands of the President. When I look at [Yeltsin] now I immediately see Brezhnev and Chernenko all over again."

Corriere della Sera said the "Euro tax" would almost certainly not be enough, and would have to be repeated.

Industrialists said the budget would hit production and reduce consumer spending. *La Repubblica* said Italy was being asked to make more sacrifices than any other European country.

Until now the Prodi Government has officially acknowledged that it cannot meet the EMU criteria in time.

Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, had publicly raised the idea of a delay. In the event, however, the desire not to be left out has overcome other considerations.

Signor Prodi said: "We calculated what it would take to be part of Europe and then took the decision." The budget yesterday won praise at an IMF meeting in Washington, attended by Signor Prodi.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 48

French intellectuals in two minds over list of great thinkers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE publication of the 1,300-page *Dictionary of French Intellectuals* in France this Thursday, has rekindled a long-running debate over precisely who merits this most coveted and indefinable of titles.

The dictionary, a guide to the great Gallic minds of the past century, is the work of historians Jacques Julliard and Michel Winock. With a team of more than 100 contributors, they have compiled a *Who's Who* of the French intellectual firmament, beginning with the writer Raymond Abellio and ending with the journalist and novelist Emile Zola.

Intellectual organisations, such as the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) and *Le Monde* newspaper, are also included in the dictionary's 800 entries, as are intellectually important events such as the Dreyfus affair in 1894 when the word *intellectual* gained currency.

The authors define an intellectual as "a man or woman who brings to the political system a notoriety acquired elsewhere", but their list has inevitably provoked disagreement among the French chattering classes.

Writers and thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Andre Malraux, the anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss and historian Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie are naturally included, as is the painter Pablo Picasso, somewhat stretching the definition of "French". But there are some more surprising entries, including popular columnist and author Jean Giraud, *Moebius*.

Dutour, the writer Colette and the revisionist historian Roger Garaudy.

In an editorial, Jean-Marie Rouart, the literary editor of *Le Figaro*, sought to draw a distinction between "all those who have, by their creations, added to the great family of thought, literature and art" and those who, in one way or another, have taken a position on the great questions of the day."

This myth of the intellectual risks placing greater value on politico-humanitarian action than on the work itself," M Rouart warned.

But as the sheer weight of this dictionary attests, the French intellectual has played a defining and elevated role in the history of the country this century.

Régis Debray, an archetypal left-wing intellectual, once calculated that France contains about 130,000 intellectuals, or 100 to every page of the new dictionary. Despite periodic hand-wringing over the "death" of French intellectual life, debate about intellectuals is clearly alive and well.

However, one definition of an intellectual not cited in the dictionary is that of W. H. Auden:

"To the man-in-the-street, who, I'm sorry to say, is a keen observer of life. The word 'Intellectual' suggests straight away A man who's untrue to his wife."

gruille, *Dictionnaire des intellectuels français* by Jacques Julliard and Michel Winocck, Seuil, Fr295 (£39).

Court says bad dog needs its head read

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A DOG has been sent for psychiatric examination by a New York judge after it savaged its owners' granddaughter.

Becky Bear, a white-coated akita — a powerful breed of Japanese hunting dog — mauled Sarah Engstrand at her second birthday party. The child was left with scars and her parents, both lawyers, are claiming \$1.2 million (about £750,000) in damages from Becky's owners, who are Sarah's grandparents.

Judge David Saxe of Manhattan Supreme Court, hopes that an animal behaviourist will discover if the dog has a violent nature, or whether the attack was a one-off.

The Engstrands are seeking to show that the akita had aggressive propensities, so should not have been allowed near the child. Their lawyer claimed that Sarah would need plastic surgery when she was older.

Becky Bear, now aged five, panted innocently last week as she sat at the feet of her owners. Her psychiatrist exam may be conducted this week.

For her elderly owners, the case has brought much anguish. The family had been split by the legal action, which is being partly driven by an insurance company involved which paid for Sarah's medical treatment and turned down a settlement offer.

The grandparents dispute the extent of the injuries and claim that Sarah's scars are now barely visible.

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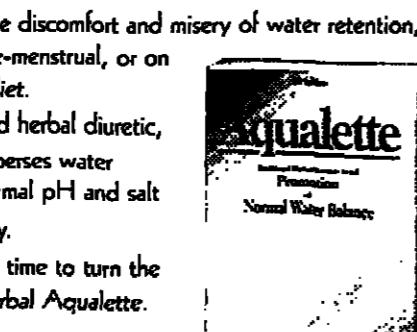
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Defiant Netanyahu orders tunnel to be reopened as draconian security measures take effect

Israel unveils plan to retake troubled West Bank towns

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A DEFIANT Israel yesterday reopened the tunnel close to the Temple Mount, which sparked the clashes that left nearly 70 dead last week. It continued implementing a draconian new security plan in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip code-named Operation Field of Thorns.

Israeli sources said that the plan had been drawn up in three stages, A, B and C, the third of which will only be put into effect if violence against Israelis worsens. Described as "the worst-case scenario", it would involve recapturing six Palestinian-controlled towns in the West Bank and Palestinian-administered areas of Gaza, as well as disarming 30,000 Palestinian policemen in what diplomats believe would amount to an all-out war.

The West Bank towns which the Israelis intend to re-take if the security situation deteriorates are Nablus, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Jenin and Jericho. Tanks were being positioned close to all of them yesterday, although the level of violence had dropped considerably.

By nightfall, two Israeli soldiers and a policeman as well as two Palestinians had been wounded in continued clashes, including riots sparked in east Jerusalem by the decision ordered personally by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to reopen the tunnel. Muslims allege the tunnel accelerates the "Judaisation" of Jerusalem's Old City, occupied by Israel since 1967.

"The tunnel has been around for 2,000 years. It will stay open," Mr Netanyahu told a cheering crowd of Christian supporters in Jerusalem. "It will always be open."

The Prime Minister, whose policies provoked a 20,000-strong protest rally by the left-wing Peace Now movement in Tel Aviv on Saturday night, added: "This tunnel is 250 metres, a quarter of a kilometre from the nearest mosque. We believe in the



Israeli police reopen the tunnel yesterday

Palestinian control two years ago under terms of the 1993 peace accord signed in Washington. Stage C would also involve the mass arrest of Palestinians.

In what was seen as a pointed warning to the Palestinian authorities to restrain the stone-throwing mobs who have been attacking Israeli military checkpoints and remote Jewish settlements, Major General Uzi Dayan, military commander in the West Bank, told Israel Radio: "On Thursday, we activated this plan, stages A and B. The mission before us is to defend Israeli vital lifelines in our sector, imposition of law and order with strong reaction to any violation and to any risk to Israeli security interests."

The Israelis' decision to publicise their blueprint for retaking Palestinian areas — a military provocation which Western observers fear could spark a war involving Syria and even Egypt — has added new urgency to this week's crisis summit on the Middle East in Washington called by President Clinton. It is understood that American officials have reported from Tel Aviv that the Netanyahu Government is in earnest about implementing Stage C if there are more mass attacks on Jewish soldiers and settlers.

With nearly 30 tanks reinforced by dozens of armoured personnel carriers reported to be in place around the autonomous biblical town of Jericho, a senior Palestinian military commander, Major-General Abd-el-Razek al-Majaydeh, said: "The massing of troops is a provocative act and is not justified."

Israel's top soldier, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, wrongly reported in some papers yesterday as being on the brink of resignation, said that the military situation remained critical despite the tapering off of last week's violence due to a restraining policy by Palestinian policemen, who were earlier shooting at Israelis.

Jerusalem flashpoint sparks new protests

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAELI soldiers and paramilitary police lined the narrow streets of Jerusalem's Old City yesterday to ensure that the Hasmonaeum tunnel that provoked the recent Arab-Israeli blood-letting remained open in the face of fierce Palestinian objections.

The large Israeli force drove away scores of stone-throwers who attacked the tunnel door when it was reopened on orders from the Government after a 48-hour closure for the Jewish Sabbath. Senior Palestinian officials claimed that they had been given no notice of the reopening, which one described as "an act of war".

Most of the tourists who passed through the claustrophobic 500-yard tunnel rediscovered by British archaeologist Charles Warren in 1867, were religious Jews, which increased Palestinian anger over the project.

"Jerusalem belongs to the Jewish people and do not let anyone say any different," Tzvi Zucker said after stepping out of the tunnel, which runs alongside the Temple Mount, sacred to both muslims and Jews, and on to the Via Dolorosa, the route many

Christians believe Jesus walked on the way to his death. But milling groups of newsmen and security guards far outnumbered tourists.

The exit from which Mr Zucker emerged was reopened last week by Israeli workmen operating under cover of darkness. It provides a second exit from the tunnel.

Although Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, claimed the new exit had been opened to boost tourism, many bemused foreign visitors to the historic area yesterday appeared wary of it. "I hear the Israeli police opened it... and it goes under the al-Aqsa mosque. The Arabs do not like it," said José a Spanish tourist.

The resolution referred to the opening of the tunnel and "its consequent results", and called for the "immediate cessation and reversal of all acts which have resulted in the aggravation of the situation".

An explicit condemnation of Israel was removed from the resolution after negotiations to avert the threat of a veto. Some diplomats had feared that America would use its veto to protect Israel, as it did last year.

Despite the tension and street battles on the Via Dolorosa yesterday, elsewhere in east Jerusalem at the weekend there were some scenes of mutual sympathy. Palestinians helped four Israeli border police injured when their vehicle overturned while speeding to the scene of a Palestinian riot. Some of the wounded men with water and other help before Israeli medical teams could reach them.



An unidentified Palestinian man tends to an Israeli border policeman hurt in a car crash



A Palestinian youth uses a sling to hurl a stone at Israeli soldiers in rioting at Bethlehem

Threat of wider war at stake in summit gamble

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THIS week's crisis summit in Washington is regarded by Arabs and Israelis as a necessary gamble. If it fails to satisfy Palestinian expectations, an explosion of violence much more serious than last week's fighting is feared.

Benjamin Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat will be facing the hardest test of their careers. It comes at a time when the Middle East is dangerously close to the brink of a new war which could drag in Syria and even Egypt unless swift diplomatic surgery is carried out.

Although intensive American diplomacy preceded yesterday's summit announcement by President Clinton, it emerged last night that no deals on concessions have been done behind the scenes. Danny Ayalon, the Israeli Cabinet Secretary, said: "There is only one understanding — that we are going to Washington."

Mr Arafat has been insisting on the closure of the newly-opened second exit to the tunnel at Temple Mount as a condition of a meeting with Mr Netanyahu. But Israel has not given way.

"We all know that Netanyahu has to give Arafat something, but so far we have no idea what," said one reporter familiar with the Shin Bet intelligence service. The battles of the last few days had raised a bigger question over a date for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the contested holy city of Hebron, because of the doubts about the reliability of the Palestinian police", he added.

Mr Netanyahu's influential communications director, David Bar-Ilan, said that the delayed "redeployment" from Hebron — home to 450 Jewish settlers — could become even more problematic. Under the

Oslo agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, signed in 1993, withdrawal should have taken place in March, but was postponed by the previous Labour Government after devastating Islamic suicide bombs claimed 60 lives in less than ten days. Now right-wing Jewish settlers and their religious allies are pressing for it to be put off permanently.

Mr Bar-Ilan said that as a result of the "blatant attacks" on Israelis by the Palestinian police "we might now find it necessary to be doubly careful". He added: "Everywhere that the Palestinian police were present there was trouble, and to add another city [Hebron] to those where they are present with their arms, is something that we want to reconsider."

Mr Bar-Ilan's uncompromising comments were seen as a new warning light by the Palestinian leadership, as they indicated that the Netanyahu Government — despite promises to the contrary — was considering renegotiating vital clauses of the Oslo agreement.

Mr Arafat attempted to inject a note of reassurance: "We must return to the negotiating table. We have no intention to renegotiate Oslo. We have an interest in ensuring the Oslo agreements are honoured..."

Mr Arafat, who granted a rare 90-minute interview to Israel's biggest selling paper, *Yedioth Ahronot*, to express his frustrations and his demands for the talks, said: "I believe that a meeting should lead to real acts and progress in terms of carrying out of the (Oslo) agreement. With Netanyahu, everything begins and ends with a meeting. I hope the situation changes."

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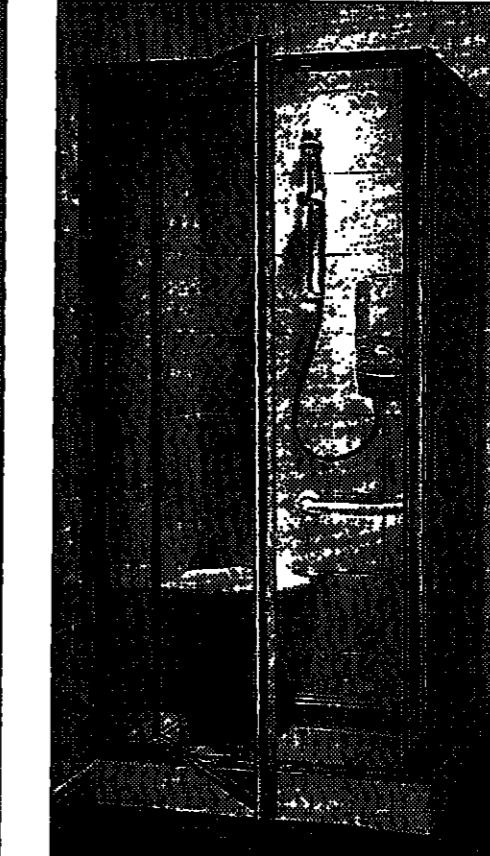
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Spinal injury □ colourful males □ lost in space

Clock turns back

MAMMALS pay the price of greater brainpower by losing the ability to repair damage to their central nervous system after injury, a team from the Weizmann Institute in Israel believes. Thousands of people every year are paralysed after spinal injuries — but if they were fish, the chances are that the nerves would regenerate.

Somewhere along the line of evolution, mammals have lost the ability to make good any damage done, but only in the central nervous system. The peripheral nervous system can repair itself, a discrepancy that the Weizmann team has used in a series of experiments that may hold out long-term hope for spinal-injury victims.

Professor Michal Schwartz and colleagues argue that the ability to repair tissues is linked to the recruitment of cells called macrophages, mobilised by the immune system after injury. These cells swarm to the site, removing damaged cells and releasing substances that promote healing. Except, that is, if the damage lies in the brain or central nervous system: then, something blocks the macrophages and prevents repair taking place.

Writing in *FASEB Journal*, a publication of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, the team argues that it is the complexity of the mammalian brain that has led to this protection against macrophages. Without some sort of barrier, the cells of the immune system might invade the brain constantly and remodel it during life, disrupting the complex network of



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

connections that represent memory and the ability to think.

"There seems to be an evolutionary trade-off," suggests Professor Schwarz.

"Higher animals protected their central nervous systems from invasion by the immune system, but paid the price of forfeiting their ability to regenerate nerves."

Thus an evolutionary advantage that protects the healthy brain turns into a disadvantage in the case of injury.

It may, however, be possible to overcome the obstacle to repair by turning back the evolutionary clock. In their experiments the team attempted to

repair damage to the optic nerves of rats by removing macrophages and "educating" them outside the body. They took rat macrophages and incubated them with material from injured sciatic nerve, which forms part of the peripheral nervous system and has retained the ability to repair itself.

Then they put the macrophages back into the injured optic nerves of the rats. The result was to persuade the nerves to regrow, though the team has yet to show that any rats actually regained their sight. That will be the next stage of the research.

"Macrophages may be the missing link in the process of wound-healing in the central nervous system," says Professor Schwartz. The procedure might be developed into a treatment for repairing central nervous system injuries, particularly to restore movement in cases of spinal injury. Development may take years and is likely to be of benefit only if used immediately after the injury.

European satellite runs out of money



A SATELLITE originally intended to last for three years will finally be shut down today after more than 18 years. The International Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE) has been a great success, but the European Space Agency can no longer find the money to go on operating it. "It is sad to be closing down something still producing solid science year in, year out," says Professor David Southwood, of Imperial College in London.

IUE was a British idea, from Professor Bob Wilson, at Culham Laboratory, in the 1960s. Launched in 1978, it has made more than 100,000 observations of objects that include planets, comets, and distant stars. This year, despite a gyroscope failure in March which left the satellite with only one gyro functioning out of the original six, it was able to produce five-hour exposures of Comet Hyakutake.

IUE will not be coming down in a hurry. Its very high orbit, between 42,000 and 26,000 kilometres above the Earth, should ensure a lengthy silent retirement in space.

Why do females fall for show-offs?



IN many species, it is the brightest coloured males which attract the most interest among females. But what exactly do the brilliant colours indicate? Most biologists would say that the females are working on the assumption that outward show is evidence of inner fitness. The most colourful male is also the most likely to give them healthy offspring.

The thesis gets new support from a study of Trinidadian guppies, a species of fish. Jean-Guy Godin, of Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, Canada, and Lee Alan Dugatkin, of Louisville University, Kentucky, put guppies and predator fish in a tank, separated by a clear screen, and watched how the male guppies behaved when there were females present.

The brighter ones made more approaches to the predators, yet also got away faster, they report in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. So, despite their high visibility, they seem well able to look after themselves and by choosing them the females are also getting the best.



Scientists are beginning to believe that surviving a disaster — as did these *Estonia* passengers — may be shaped by more than just luck

Living to tell the tale

What distinguishes a victim from a survivor?
Anjana Ahuja on a theory which suggests that some people are natural-born fighters

You are doing what millions of people do every year — sitting on an aircraft. People jostle around you, shoving more than their quota of hand luggage in the overhead lockers. Smiling air hostesses walk around like teachers, casting watchful eyes over laps and forcing reclining chairs into an upright position.

Then, as you rumble down the runway, your world judgers to a halt and melt into a scene from Hell. Black smoke is everywhere, the plane is disintegrating and screams rip through the air. Do you sit still and wait to be rescued as

people drop like flies around you? Or do you develop tunnel vision and focus on the chink of light near the exit, which you quickly realise may be the only way to emerge alive?

When disaster strikes, good fortune and a knowledge of emergency protocol may dictate whether or not you live to tell the tale. However, equally compelling are the tales of survivors who have fought like tigers to remain alive while others have perished around them. By interviewing people who have survived air crashes, ferry sinkings and other disasters, scientists are beginning to suspect that our chances of survival may be shaped by more than just luck. They are even beginning to wonder if there may be such a phenomenon as a natural-born survivor.

Paul Barney knows from personal experience that people respond differently to the same adversity. He survived the *Estonia* ferry disaster in September 1994, in which 852 people died. Mr Barney, 37, had been doing in the canteen when the ship began to list after losing its bow doors.

"A jolt woke me up, probably the sound of the bow doors hitting the hull," he recalls. "I realised the ship was listing and I knew that ships that big shouldn't list." His overwhelming reaction was one of rage: "I remember feeling angry that I was going to be killed before my time."

He was also struck by the reactions of others. There was a group of about five people just sitting there not doing anything. They looked as if they were waiting for someone else to tell them what to do.

"Well, I'm not like that. I'm self-employed, single-minded, independent and not afraid to make decisions myself." Guided by his instincts and fuelled by a surge of adrenaline, Mr Barney, who features in an *Equinox* documentary on survival, managed to clamber up some pipework onto the outside of the ship and find his way to a life raft. Although he fell in the water several times, he fought off hypothermia while many around him succumbed.

According to a fascinating theory, Mr Barney may well owe his life to his independent nature. But how? The chain of reasoning starts with Hans Eysenck, the psychologist famed for his deconstruction of human personality.

Professor Eysenck reduced the human personality to three core traits — Psychoticism (P), Extraversion (E) and Neuroticism (N). Sometimes a fourth trait, Introversion (I), the opposite of extraversion, is added to the list. Someone with a high P-level would be regarded as antisocial and, in rare



Single-minded: Paul Barney

cases, psychotic. A high E-level would indicate vivacity. A high N-level would indicate a neurotic personality.

"If you are in a disaster, it is not a good idea to be highly neurotic," says Professor Jeffrey Gray, who heads the psychology department at the University of London, and is trying to uncover the underlying brain system — and ultimately the genes — governing anxiety. "You might panic and freeze, which would not put you in the best position to escape."

He also points out that among survivors, those with introverted and neurotic dispositions are more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

On the other hand, high P-levels would be a blessing in a crisis. "This is the quality that unites a good SAS trooper with a bank robber," Professor Gray says. "They are risk-takers and care little about the effects of their behaviour on others. They focus on their own needs and are not distracted by the needs of others, which is good for survival."

Professor Marvin Zuckerman, an American scientist from Delaware University, has been bolder in trying to explain survivors' characteristics. He has related the Eysenck traits to chemicals secreted in the brain. He correlates P-levels with dopamine, the neurotransmitter released when we actively pursue a goal — finding an escape route from a burning building, for example.

I-levels are established by serotonin, which acts as a brake on that behaviour and therefore inhibits escape. So a person with high P-levels and low I-levels is most likely to quickly grasp that he is in danger and to formulate an escape.

Another theory attributed to Professor Zuckerman is that survivors have naturally low levels of monoamine oxidase, an enzyme which neutralises these neurotransmitters. This implies that once their sense of danger is alerted, it remains for longer. The enzyme also

Another common feature of survivors' accounts is the sensation of surrounding events unfolding in slow motion, as in a film. He has a handy answer for this, too: "If your brain has speeded up, your environment will seem slower in comparison."

From this observation, Dr Leach is convinced that the 10 per cent of us who cannot get our brains into survival gear are suffering from cognitive dysfunction". He calls it, starkly, "the will to die".

I think that some people have a cognitive mechanism, which can be triggered in certain situations, that leads to death," he says. "It is clear that some people can survive horrendous things that will kill others. They won't do anything to help themselves."

Dr Leach is trying to understand the nature of this dysfunction by testing how efficiently people under duress can carry out cognitive tasks, such as adding numbers which are shouted out to them in quick succession.

What, apart from morbid fascination, is the point of studying who may survive and who may not? Dr Leach, who has debriefed survivors of many disasters, is adamant that being able to forecast how people will react to a disaster could save lives.

"If we can seriously model what goes on in people's brains, we have the power to predict. Then we can start doing something."

• *Equinox: Staying Alive*, Sunday, October 6, Channel 4, 7pm.

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As she approaches her fiftieth birthday, Bel Mooney comes to terms with the guilt of

'I didn't plan it this way — I wasn't supposed to get old'

Idoubt if my 22-year-old mother heard the first handy hints for housewives on the new radio programme *Woman's Hour*. On the afternoon of October 7, 1946, she might even have felt the first twinges and been on the bus to Broadgreen Hospital with her mother-in-law. I was born on October 8, into the austerity of postwar, bombed-out Liverpool, into rationing — and a whole set of assumptions encapsulated by two facts. *Woman's Hour*, on the BBC Light Programme, with its 'talks by experts on keeping house, on health, on children, furnishings, beauty care — in fact everything concerned with your sort of problems in the home'... was presented by a man. And nobody would have thought it odd that my young father had to discover the gender of his new baby by walking a long way to the phone box with his Dad and ringing the hospital.

The 1946 crop, the baby boom, was a good one. Cher, Susan Sarandon, Hayley Mills, Marina Warner, Mari-

anne Faithfull, Joanna Lumley, Jane Birkin, Clare Short, Edwina Currie, Helen Mirren, Felicity Kendal, Sue Lawley, Alison Steadman... and that's just some of the women. Malcolm Rifkind, Donovan, Maurice Saatchi, William Shawcross, Oliver Stone, Jack Straw, Sylvester Stallone... all have completed half a decade, and some of us realise we have to let go.

But of what? Most 50-year-olds I know would deny that you have to let go of anything. We cling to the wreckage, ignoring the sharks, feeling invincible. A friend of mine said to me: "Our lot were the ones who 'never had it so good.' Then came the Sixties — which meant miniskirts and feminism at once! We had education and no worries about jobs. We asked questions and supplied the answers. Actually, we ruled the world. So we aren't going to give that up easily."

My generation was the last to grow up punch drunk on television, to remember when public libraries thrived and were stuffed with books,

no videos, and when the sexiest thing in newspapers was the *Daily Mirror's* Jane cartoon. The lovers of film stars were called "constant companions", and people like my grandmother (a dinner lady at Childwall Valley High School, where Alison Steadman was a pupil) would follow the doings of the Royal Family with reverence and love. At ten and 11 I could walk to primary school alone and play on the swings after school without anybody worrying. Baby-boomers at State schools might be in a class of 50 (as I was) yet enjoyed a finer, richer, more rigorous education than most children today, including those in the private sector. Few people had cars, nobody went "abroad". Little girls in the early Fifties were dressed up in suits just like their mothers, and the most exciting event of the week was *The Ovaltines* on the radio, and (later) *Journey into Space*.

But there was a sound around the corner that would banish *Family Favourites* forever. I tumbled into rock 'n' roll when Tommy



Bel Mooney entering her second half century. "Most 50-year-olds I know would deny that you have to let go of anything. We cling to the wreckage."

Steele and Cliff Richard played Liverpool, and Elvis Presley and the Everly Brothers sobbed through my dreams. We stepped from childhood to teenage as the Sixties began, in perfect time

to live a revolution in style politics and behaviour. In 1963 I bought the Beatles' first LP and the Rev John Robinson's sensational reappraisal of Christianity, *Honest to God* and decided God did not exist, but that John Lennon was right about divinity.

I hitched to a Stones gig, joined the Movement for Colonial Freedom and CND, shortened all my home-made skirts, read Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* — and lost my virginity. It all seemed so easy. The handy hints of old *Woman's Hour* were not for girls like us. We were enabled: there were plenty of jobs, and those of us who went off to college or university knew we were able to play what Philip Larkin only glimpsed from his bleak high windows: "A quite unlooseable game."

Getting old was not part of the life plan. Last year an older friend asked me what age I thought myself inside. "Thirty," I said, without hesitation. The person who walked around inside my head was forever young, sassy, flirtatious and wicked, certainly rebellious. She could slink around in leathers and do



Hand in hand: Bel with her mother in 1953

whatever she liked. Then, one bad day all harassed, I caught a sudden sideways glimpse of myself in a shop mirror. Horrified, I wondered: "Who is that hag walking around wearing my clothes?" In the summer, full of gloom at the impending half-century, I tried on the kind of clinging dress I once wore. But the flat stomach has gone; three pregnancies, decades of wine and vodka consumption, and little

or no exercise have finally finished it. Miserable, I flung it back on the rail, then flounced into W H Smith to buy Rosemary Conley's *Complete Flat Stomach Plan*. It has still not been removed from its case.

But show me a jar that promises to minimise wrinkles and renew the skin, and I will buy. Although I will never have a facelift, I pour no scorn on those women who do. We all cling at straws.

If getting old was not part of the life plan, what was? At 20 I'd have said: a couple of degrees, then lecturing and writing and getting famous, with (much later) a perfect marriage and three perfect children — none of which would interfere with the aims of independence and liberation.

But like many women I found that grand plans and personal impulses can clash. In 1968, just 21, I married a man I had known for only three months and finished my degree despite the sudden shock of domesticity. Since then, it seems, juggling has been my chief skill. As a young journalist my great love

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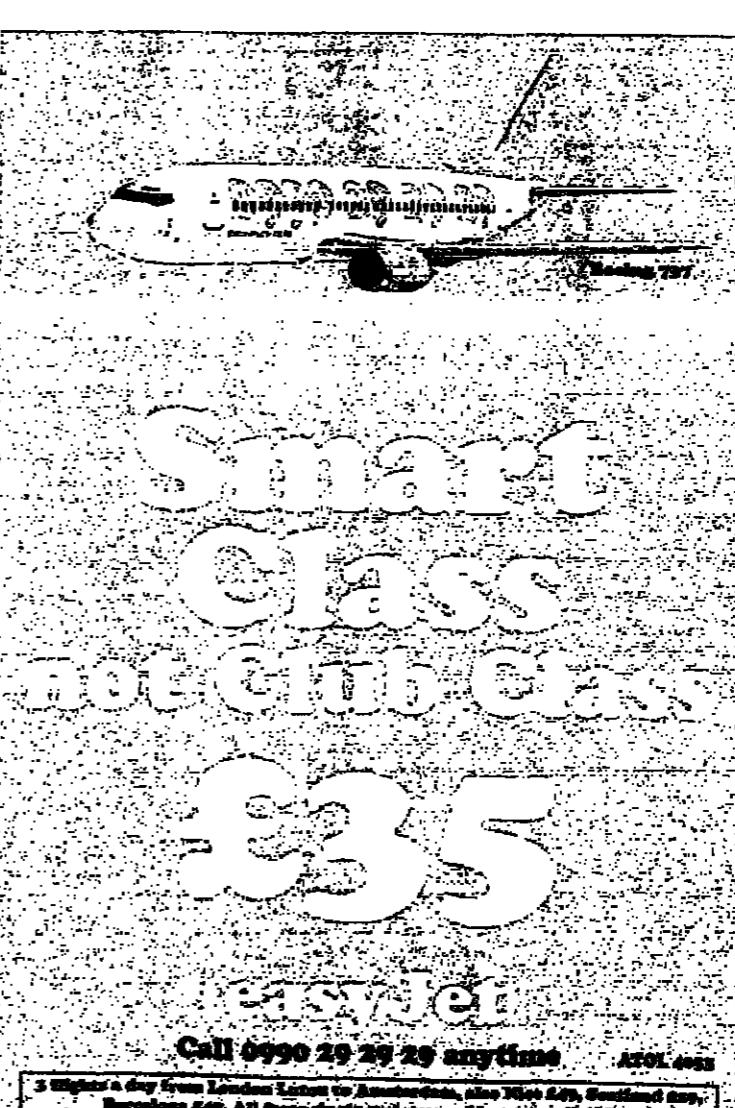


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TOMORROW



How I faced the fact of being 50 — and came to realise it can be fabulous



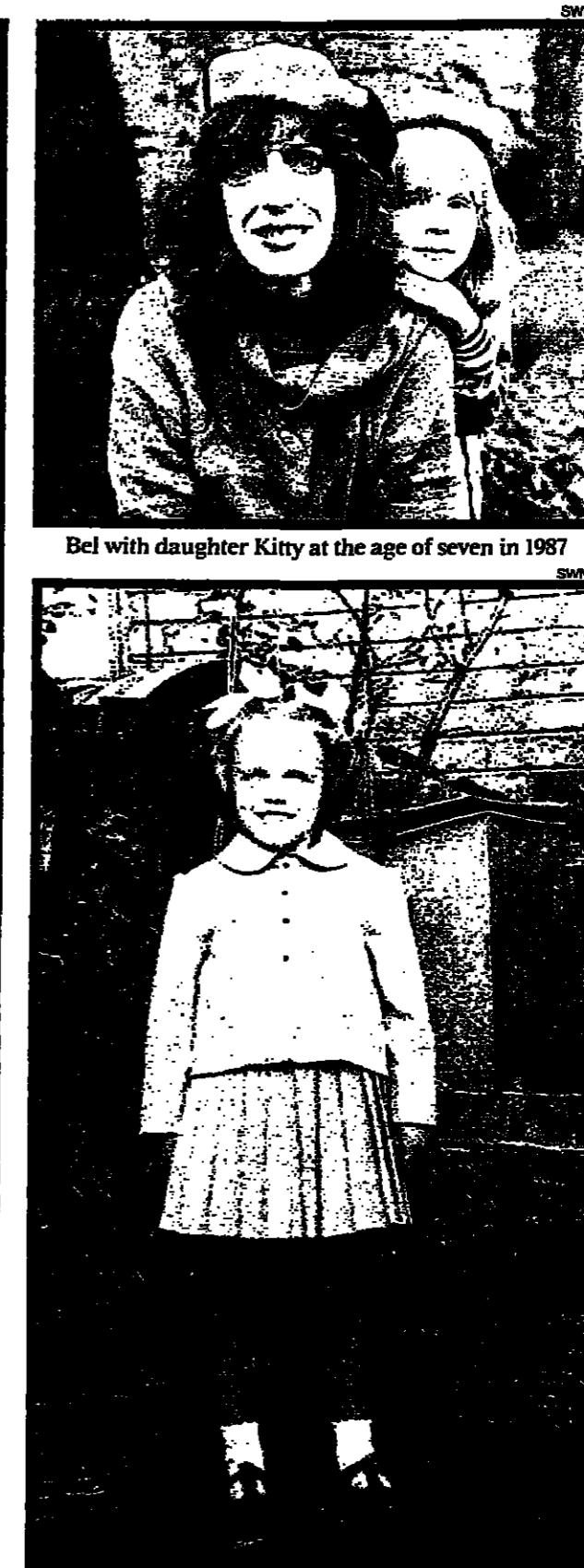
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her free-wheeling generation — and decides to become a middle aged woman with attitude



The ages of Bel Mooney: on the day of her wedding to Jonathan Dimbleby in 1968; with her son, Daniel in 1974; and Bel as a child in Liverpool in 1952, when little girls dressed like their mothers and played in safety in the street



Bel with daughter Kitty at the age of seven in 1987



Marching with Kitty against road development

was reporter. I wanted to "tell it like it is" with the passionate, naive conviction that if you expose evils and inequalities in a society someone will do something about them. But at 27 I had my first child, Daniel, and ended up writing the kind of short "think pieces" that keep you going, while the baby bobs in the rocker beside the table. The lowest point came when I covered suntan preparations for the *Daily Express*, and wondered what had happened to my fantasies of going to Vietnam.

In 1975 I had a second son, who was stillborn at full term, and his death made me feel (in a dark, primitive way) that I was being punished for my mistakes for not really wanting to be a wife and mother; even though Daniel was the love of my life. I would push him up and down the Kings Road in his pushchair, watching the punks, and chafe at the thought of going home and picking up pieces of Lego. We had a mother's help, but I had been brought up to think that children should be with their parents or grandparents. The truth was, I believed it too. I wanted liberation but not to be a lousy mother. The party had moved on, and I wasn't on the guest list any more.

In 1979, in bed for three months with the third pregnancy, I watched my husband conduct a debate on television. When he came home I was in tears. Concerned, he knelt by the bed and asked if I was worried about the baby. "It's not that," I sobbed in fury. "I just wish I could have done your programme." Our daugh-

ter, Kitty, was born with a rare bowel disease, which has meant to years (on and off) of hospital treatments and operations. We had other crises in the family. Our son had personal problems which led to him dropping out of university.

A year later, I became involved in a road protest, my husband made a TV film and published a biography of the Prince of Wales and we both

came to understand the true meaning of punk journalism. My hoped-for career shift into screenwriting fizzled out. Unwittingly I moved house, last year, and thought I would go mad with exhaustion and frustration and grief for the old home of 16 years. The point is, I stumbled, stressed-out into my fiftieth year, juggling more frantically than ever, and allowing myself (for the first time) to complain. "This

isn't how I wanted it to be." Such lows force you to accept the shortfall in "perfect" happiness and know that no game worth playing is unlosable. What's more, the end of complacency, the coming to terms, can act like a spark to a powder keg. Most days now I view the world I helped to create (privileged as a baby-boomer) through a mist of red rage. Young, I thought we could do it better. Older, I realise we didn't — and that perhaps our legacy is not just music and nostalgia, but a series of betrayals that have made this world a nastier place.

Leftist ideology and liberal laziness within local councils, teacher training colleges and schools betrayed millions of working-class children by peddling spurious "ideas" of equality, non-competitiveness and so-called self-expression, so that generations leave school illiterate and innumerate, and with no sense of order or respect for anything. It is as good a way as any of keeping the workers in their place. The baby-boom generation learnt by rote, and deprived others of the privilege of doing likewise.

Then there is the great betrayal of the idea of "freedom". Over the years, I have argued with my peers, the liberal intelligentsia, who regard the word "censorship" as a blasphemy (while not caring about blasphemy itself, of course), and thus colluded in the degradation of countless women and children in the burgeoning pornography industry.

Smart, amoral young film

makers revere Tarantino for his undoubted cleverness, and

I stumbled, stressed-out into my fiftieth year, juggling more frantically than ever. The party had moved on

will go to Hell declaring over their chardonnay that there is no proven connection between violence on screen and violence on the street. And out there, in the dark where they never poke their privileged heads, real people are imprisoned in a savage chaos.

Television moguls betray

their audience by serving them pap like *Hollywood Wives* in the guise of factual programming and pander to the lowest common denominator of grossness. Worse, news-

paper editors coarsen their readers with a daily diet of prurience, lies and malice. "It's what people want," these media folk cry, falsely and insultingly, as they cook up some new justification for a further lowering of standards. The tone of comment is increasingly cruel and cynical, as if La Burchill, A.A. Gill and the rest were weaned on bile not milk, and breathe bitterness instead of air.

The thing is, most of the

people with power and influ-

ence now belong (give or take a few years) to my "G-g-g-generation". Looking around, I don't find that something to be proud of. The betrayal of the electorate by a complacent Government too long in power, indifferent to poverty and ignorance and afraid of debate? The betrayal of the countryside itself by the construction of roads and out-of-town superstores and shopping villages with no thought of the future? And so

This anger makes me free. In my forties, I retreated to an ivory tower, wringing my hands and saying: "Isn't it awful?" When I joined the protest against the Bathaston By-pass in 1994 all that fell away, and I realised something truly liberating.

As I trundled inexorably towards 50 I did not care a fig what people thought about me. I was afraid of nobody — not burly security guards, nor politicians, nor second-rate hacks. I realised that there comes a point when you have to stand up and yell NO!, and that I would spend my fifties doing just that — middle aged with attitude.

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■ OPERA

Veteran bass Richard Van Allan sings in the ENO's *Don Quixote* at the Coliseum
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ FILMS

Hey, Jude: Kate Winslet stars in the new screen adaptation of Hardy's epic novel
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

Murky affairs in Central America are the subject of John le Carré's thriller, *The Tailor of Panama*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday



The great American diva Jessye Norman gives a rare song recital in the Festival Hall
CONCERT: Sunday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

Suite land of liberty, of thee I sing

As David Bintley showed last season, his first as director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, he is not fighting shy of new choreography. And the triple bill which the company has unveiled at the start of Bintley's second season reveals a continuing commitment to expand BRB's repertoire, with two more world premieres.

For the first time, Bintley has gone outside the company to commission a

possible exception of Leticia Müller's sweet Bride. Sabrina Lenzi's Ice Maiden lacked authority, and never quite seemed to grasp the nature of her obsession with the Young Man. Monica Zamora's Gypsy Woman was too coy to be truly alluring; Michael O'Hare's Young Man lacked a heartfelt sense of unwanted destiny. Nadine Baylis's ice-blue set looked most attractive on the Hippodrome stage.

So, too, did the outrageously vibrant designs for Bintley's new *The Nutcracker Sweeties*, with references to everything from Uncle Sam and pom-pom girls to candy canes and peanut brittle. The stage was buzzing with the snappy, neon vision of Jasper Conran (costumes) and Peter J. Davison (scenery); together they have captured the brash confidence of America and its cultural touchstones.

Bintley, for his part, has created one of the most entertaining ballets of his career. Set to Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's witty jazz arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* (given a terrific performance by the Echoes of Ellington band), Bintley's fleet-footed frolic is a clever and polished suite of genial dances. A red-wigged Monica Zamora is turned into a wonderfully slinky Rita Hayworth clone for her Sugar Plum Cherry variation; Agnes Oaks dons the world's longest green fingernails for her spiky Chinoiserie variation; and Joseph Cipolla and Chica Williams have a whale of a time as a toro and his lady in the buffoonery of *Waltz of the Floreadors*. The cast lapped it up like cats at a cream bowl, and no wonder Bintley has given them the tastiest of treats.

None of Thursday's first-night cast seemed particularly happy, with the

■ DANCE

Birmingham Royal Ballet
Hippodrome

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DEBRA CRAINE



Sylvia Jimenez as Candy Kane in David Bintley's *Nutcracker Sweeties*

ANYONE courageous enough to open a new concert season with two works as long and as serious as Shostakovich's 14th Symphony and Bruckner's Seventh — whatever the motivation for lumping them together in the same programme — deserves all the luck there is.

Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra were uncommonly unlucky in losing first Thomas Quasthoff and then, at much shorter notice, the other soloist originally engaged for the occasion, Elena Frolina.

Masterpiece though it is, the 14th Symphony is an unrelentingly bleak work — Shostakovich's

vich's equivalent of Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death*, but without the songs and dances — and it needs every advantage in presentation if it is to hold the audience enthralled through 11 movements scored only for strings and percussion alongside the soprano and bass soloists.

It would be idle to pretend that the solo performances by Sarah Walker, admirably professional though she was, and Mikhail Rysov, expert though he is in the role, achieved the

overt in its expressive intentions.

The sound of the massive orchestral forces of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony — with the overhead canopy at full height and doors to the reverberation chamber door standing wide open — was overwhelmingly effective after Shostakovich's chamber-ensemble restraint. But one has become accustomed to more sophisticated thinking in Symphony Hall.

Bruckner's Seventh is too big to accommodate in the second half of a concert which

has already offered a large-scale experience. It needs its own space. Much practised though Rattle and the CBSO are in this particular Bruckner score, it also needs priority in preparation, if only to secure the appropriate frame of mind. It was not the most finished or most accurate performance they have ever presented, or the most arresting. They were thoroughly involved in it by the recapitulation of the first movement, and the Adagio was beautifully done, but by the middle of the Finale they were losing touch with it again.

GERALD LARNER

An evening's hard labour

■ CONCERT

CBSO/Rattle
Birmingham

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■ Politics with a giggle would increase the appeal of our parties more than any solemn conference

Conjure up the scene later this week. A low growl. A continuous base drone on the pedals of a massive wind organ: an expectant rumbling, full of . . . full of what? Hope or menace? A purple spotlight picks its target: a black space right at the centre of the dais — is it a pit? — flooding its edges in an eerie luminescence. Total hush descends upon the thousands assembled. No one knows what is happening.

Four trumpets blast a single note, and another, and another: a rising scale. This is the opening fanfare from Richard Strauss's *Also Sprach Zarathustra* — used in 2001: A Space Odyssey. Suddenly there is movement within the spotlight's circle. But what? The trumpets are joined by the rest of the brass and the fanfare rises to its first climax.

Labour delegates are amazed. Nothing like this has ever happened at the Winter Gardens before.

Then the great roll of the kettle-drums. Something is taking shape.

From the centre of the pit, the organ itself is rising. In the purple glow we see a man's broad but hunched shoulders. He is at the keyboard, facing away from us.

In a rumble of drums, the first crescendo dies. Then those trumpets again. The second begins. Above the platform, as the brass blasts its fanfare, a vast screen flickers into purple life. On it, magnified is that image at the keyboard. Who is it? Thousands strain to see. Kettle-drums roll a second time. Do we not recognise those shoulders, that hair, those ears? Is it . . . ? Yes! It is Tony Blair! He lunges manically at the keyboard. The whole organ on its flying platform continues to rise, covering above the podium.

Now comes the final fanfare. Trumpets, brass, strings, woodwind, the whole orchestra rides in. Tony Blair, hands still at the keys, swings his shoulders round to face us. The fanfare climaxes. A thousand necks crane up at the screen. He is wearing a devil mask!

There is a moment of shock. At the last great chord Mr Blair rips the mask from his face, shrugs, and smiles. The purple spot dies. Daylight floods the Winter Gardens. The entire conference bursts into laughter. "Sorry," he says. "It's only me."

Then I vote Labour. It won't happen, not in a million years. Yet I reckon, that for this alone, a million people would switch their votes to Mr Blair: the under-25s for start, with whom Labour is having a serious problem. This section of the electorate, whom the party must have thought it had sewn up, are feeling mightily alienated by the churchy gentility of new Labour.

Paradoxical though this

Oh for a politician who is able to laugh off the attacks of the media

kidding? If you greet an attack with a giggle, then far from looking juvenile you make your attacker look juvenile. The Tories would never be able to use the demon theme again.

So why don't they do it? Part of the answer, I fear, is down to us, the press. Just before he was dismissed after fuss about weekends in the Ritz, the minister Neil Hamilton, visiting a school, held up a biscuit and joked. "Perhaps I should have declared this."

I laughed. The press did not. So mindlessly obsessed have we become with "gaffes" and "banana-skins" that politicians have to be solemnly circumspect as they walk in fear of our headlines. Commentary has become dreadfully priggish, and a hawk-eyed sensorness is the order of the day. For senior politicians, every conference performance is rather like that pier-end game where you have to pass a metal ring all the way along a twisted wire without them touching — or a bell rings and you are discredited. The equivalent of that bell is the shriek of "Gaffe" from the press.

So with Mr Blair tomorrow and Mr Major next week, dignity will reign, the nervy, false dignity of the timid, po-mouthing and carrots up their bottoms. And, in numbers which increase with every decade, the nation switches off.

Game bird

IT seems that the late "Colonel" Harland Sanders, the holo-tied founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken and epitome of Southern courtesies, was both a leg and a breast man. Thighs, too, if one is to believe a biography of the old lad by his daughter Margaret.

Miss Sanders, aged 86, has composed a candid memoir in

which she discloses that Col Sanders — whose title was an honorific had a prodigious sexual appetite and kept a mistress. He succeeded in persuading his wife to hire the woman as a char. The suggestion led to domestic strife. "It was evident from the beginning that her presence would create turmoil," says Miss Sanders.

Mother refused to accept that she alone could not satisfy father's physical needs, which from the very beginning of their marriage had seemed excessive to her, adds the daughter of the man who introduced the world to the saying "finger lickin' good". He later divorced his wife and took both her and his mistress to a presidential inauguration.

Miss Sanders's book goes by the title *The Colonel's Secret: Eleven Herbs and a Spicy Daughter*. It is likely to be read closely in Kentucky, which went into statewide mourning when Sanders died in 1980.

Such was his reputation at the time that he was hailed as the "preacher's friend", and the evangelist Billy Graham sent a personal message of sympathy. His body lay

America has yet to make up its mind about the presidential election, but doesn't like either candidate

What's the issue? It's Clinton, stupid

The United States is suffering from an economic boom but a political depression. The economy is still fine and has been in prolonged recovery since the last months of the Bush Administration: Wall Street is at record levels — probably too high — and unemployment is about half the European average. Yet there has seldom been more widespread anxiety about the future of America. There is no public enthusiasm for the presidential campaign or for either of the candidates. The 1992 joke is being recycled. What the ballot paper needs is a box saying: "None of the above."

Bob Dole has always been a poor campaigner. One can remember years of him slogging through the snows of New Hampshire in the Republican primaries, making incoherent speeches on unpopular themes, and alienating many voters unfortunate enough to meet him. Now that he is actually running for president, he is repeating his old primary form. He is, in any case, a full generation out of date, a Nixon Republican in the post-Reagan era. It is as though the Conservatives were going into the next election under Willie Whitelaw, and much less enjoyable.

However, the Republicans have two weapons with which to fight Bill Clinton. The first is money and the second is Bill Clinton. The money will be spent on an awesome scale. This will be the most expensive campaign in the history of the United States. In October the Republicans will be spending \$1 million on television advertising every day. There is something like \$80 million in the central campaign chest for the Congressional races. The money will probably not be enough to elect Bob Dole, but it probably will be enough to maintain the Republican majority

in both Houses of Congress. The balance of seats vacant and retirements is, in any case, favourable to the Republicans.

Bill Clinton has, so far, been well ahead in the polls, though in the latest CNN poll he has slipped to a 9 per cent lead, his lowest so far. The present poll situation may not be very important, since the American electorate has not yet engaged with the campaign. They do not know where the candidates stand on most issues; 40 per cent do not even know that Jack Kemp has been chosen as Dole's running mate. All that will change. In past elections, up to 40 per cent of voters have made their decisions in the last week.

There are two big issues about Bill Clinton. The first is whether he is a man of any character at all; the second, which obviously runs into the first, is whether he is any good at being President. Everyone admits that he is good at campaigning, and at that aspect of being President which has been termed the role of "Celebrity-in-Chief". The Republicans have been trying out character-attack television advertisements on panel audiences and are finding that they do not work. The American people accept that the President is a compulsive womaniser, that he probably did some crooked things as Governor of Arkansas, that he may have obstructed justice along the

way, that he has had some very unsavoury friends, but they do not want the Republicans to remind them of these things. *The New York Times* found a typical voter in Arizona, Steven Blackwell, "a burly young steelworker"; he is thinking of voting for Clinton, but says "he has no morals whatsoever". A President without morals and a campaign without issues is the menu for 1996.

William Rees-Mogg

Indeed, it is the White House which has inadvertently done the most to publicise the President's little problems. In December 1994, Jane Sherburne, who is the Assistant White House Counsel, thought she ought to list the charges against which she might have to defend the President. This turned into a 12-page "task list," starting with 39 accusations, which she neatly listed from "Foster document handling" through "obstruction of justice", noting three examples, through "Lesaster (bond deals, cocaine, Roger Clinton)" to "women". In August of this year

this task list had to be handed over to the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, and from there it has reached the press.

Robert Bork, the nominee for the Supreme Court who was sandbagged by Ted Kennedy, taught law at Yale to Bill and Hillary Clinton. He believes that this list of 39 articles includes material on which Hillary Clinton could be indicted and Bill Clinton could be impeached. Obstruction of justice is a felony. Bork will be voting for Dole.

At this stage the Republicans' decision is not to campaign on these character issues but on the presidential record. Bill Clinton is being accused of being "a closet liberal", to which he has absurdly replied that he is not, has not been and never will be a liberal.

The electorate is being reminded, and every American will hear this at least 50 times between now and polling day, that in 1992 Bill Clinton promised a middle-class tax cut and yet in 1993 put taxes up for everyone. There will also be attack advertisements on one powerful emotional issue, his recent veto of the Bill forbidding what are called "partial-birth abortions". This procedure takes late-term foetuses, at a stage when they might be viable as babies,

brings them to within a couple of minutes of actual birth, and then kills them by sucking out their brains. In law, if the baby has not emerged from the mother, that is abortion; if it has, it is murder. The advertisements will describe this gruesome procedure, and remind people that Bill Clinton overruled the majority in Congress who wanted to stop it.

It is said that the American electorate seldom worries about foreign affairs. That is not altogether true, since foreign affairs played a large part in presidential elections from the outbreak of the Second World War to the end of Vietnam, that is from 1940 to 1972. The Middle East has recently been dominating the television screens. There is a growing public feeling that Bill Clinton is too much of a compulsive conciliator to handle the brutal realities of world power. Americans admire toughness in a leader — Margaret Thatcher is the most popular British leader since Winston Churchill. Bill Clinton carries no handbag, even if Hillary does.

In yesterday's *Washington Post* Jim Hoagland wrote a scathing column about the ineffectiveness of the President's policy towards Iraq, Palestine and Israel:

Self-induced blindness has made US policy on Iraq a mess, not "an unqualified success". The White House's denial of this — even to itself — disgusts middle-level officials within the Government who know what has happened. The crisis in Israel again found Clinton on the campaign trail, being briefed by fax and phone while his aides clung desperately to policy levers which no longer worked. High taxes, flawed character, feebleness in foreign affairs, support for killing viable late-term babies, these issues give the Republicans something to work on. But I expect Bob Dole will muffle it again.

Labour's benefit cost analysis

Barbara Castle's battle with Harriet Harman is old hat, says Peter Riddell

The debate over Blairism always comes back to spending and taxes. Can a party of the Centre-Left reconcile financial responsibility with radical aspirations? Many Labour activists, as well as Tory propagandists, believe the two are incompatible: that the repeated emphasis by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown on toughness when it comes to public spending is merely to win the election, and that they will behave differently in office, or be forced to do so.

But Mr Blair and Mr Brown mean what they say, however hard it may be to achieve. They have yet, however, to show how Labour would really make a difference in office without alarming taxpayers, business and the markets. That will be a central theme of Mr Blair's speech tomorrow.

The difficulty of finding the balance between restraint and expectation explains much of the recent discontent among Labour activists. The party's pre-manifesto, launched three months ago and debated this week, has so far not caught either the party's imagination or the public's. This carries the incidental risk that the subsequent battle of Labour's members may be a flop because of low turnout.

The early pledges in the pre-manifesto — about tackling youth unemployment, cutting class sizes for infants, reducing hospital waiting lists, and taking tougher action on young offenders — have been criticised as being marginal and dubiously financed through one-off financial transfers. Some of the pledges — about young offenders and getting 250,000 people under 25 years old off benefit and into work or training — are ambitious and address growing social problems. But there are still

many doubts about raising money from a windfall levy on the privatised utilities.

The most important pledge is the fifth, which has been generally ignored: to "set tough rules for government spending and borrowing". These include controls on the overall level of debt and the so-called golden rule for public spending, that over the economic cycle the Government will only borrow to invest and not to fund current spending. That commitment, also endorsed by the Treasury in the last Budget, would limit public borrowing to about 1 per cent of national income. Not only is this well below the Maastricht guidelines to do with qualifying for monetary union, but it is also less than a quarter of the current deficit.

This is a very tight constraint, and if Labour means what it says, this would rule out any increase in overall spending if taxes are to be held down. However, a classic exercise in old Labour expediency has probably settled the vote. A deal has been worked out by Mr Brown and Jack Jones, the pensioners' leader (who,

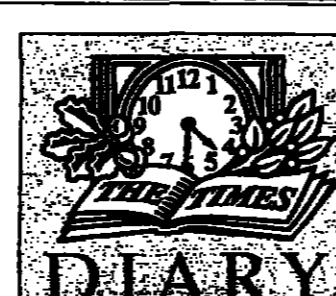
ironically, was an old foe of Barbara Castle in the battles over trade union law in the late 1960s). The statement approved yesterday by Labour's national executive offers a review but gives nothing away — stating that the party "can and will give no manifesto or other commitments on finance for any decisions that could only be made in the light of economic circumstances".

So the spending line has held — and the modernisers argue that resisting the promoters of universal provision is itself an achievement, given past commitments. Mr Brown will argue in his speech this afternoon that his tough approach is justified in its own terms and not solely for electoral reasons. Only through such restraint will it be possible to achieve financial stability and to take action to help young people and begin welfare reform. A first Brown Budget, proba-

But Labour has opposed most of these measures and has yet to offer plausible alternatives. In that sense, the real debate is not between Harriet Harman and Lady Castle — that is a battle of the past — but between Ms Harman and Peter Lilley, over how to create an affordable welfare state.

Labour has edged towards the principle of workfare (imposing obligations on those receiving unemployment benefit) and targeted benefits. But after the fierce criticism of the plan for reallocating child benefit for 16-to-18 year-olds, the party is reluctant to provoke more controversy, especially as the Tories are coy about tackling middle-class benefits. Any new government will have to seek more private financing of public services, as is already occurring in pensions and higher education.

Mr Blair is a genuine radical in his aims for a five-year parliament: making a start on welfare reform, improving educational standards, achieving a more positive relationship with Europe, creating a new partnership with business and beginning to roll back an over-centralised State. He believes Labour could make a difference, as the Conservatives implicitly acknowledge in their slogan "New Labour, New Danger". What he has yet to demonstrate convincingly is how Labour could fulfil these hopes within admittedly tight spending and tax constraints.



A Cracker

IN CRICKETING circles, Leslie Crowther's departure for the celestial pavilion is a terrible blow. The light entertainer and *Crackerjack* presenter was a stalwart, fervent supporter, charity side fundraiser and, though not especially distinguished at the crease, a telling play-

er. Such was his reputation at the time that he was hailed as the "preacher's friend", and the evangelist Billy Graham sent a personal message of sympathy. His body lay

in state and he was buried in his trademark double-breasted white suit — no doubt with the traces of a smile playing under his snowy moustache.

Good press
AN UNEASY tension hung over base camp at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool yesterday morning. John Prescott was about to be interviewed by John Humphrys for the BBC's *On the Record*.

Well guarded
AND WHILE Tony Blair was fretting yesterday about what John Prescott might say in his television interview, his constituency opponent for the general election was more concerned with domestic issues. Lizzie Noel, the Tory candidate for Sedgefield in Co Durham, was marrying Guardsman Henry Pitman in Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire.

Sitting in the family pew was the bridegroom's stepfather, Andrew Parker Bowles, whose ex-wife Camilla is so friendly with the Prince of Wales.

The potential for error on the eve of the conference was playing havoc with new Labour's blood pressure. But there was no need to worry. John Prescott's performance was top-drawer. He ducked and dived, bobbed and weaved and managed to parry every Humphrys thrust.

Such was the relief after the interview that Tony Blair's office erupted into spontaneous applause. Minutes later, the champion himself shuffled into the office, grinning. The scene brought to mind a footballer mobbed and kissed by team-mates after scoring a winning goal.

Lizzie and Henry: happy with a party of their own
Politics was thankfully not to the fore during the speeches, although one of the ladies confessed: "When she told us about the wedding, we knew it couldn't possibly be an October election. Lizzie would never have got married so close to an election."

• **Diplomatic relations between the Treasury and the Foreign Office are at an all-time low on account of plans to build a new Embassy in Berlin.** The Treasury is insisting that the building be financed privately. The Foreign Office is quite appalled at the president. Frontrunners for the construction project appear to be Shirayama corporation, the unpopular Japanese outfit currently gutting County Hall, the former GLC building.

P.H.S



Harland: spicy hero



CONFERENCE DINOSAURS

Old activists still haunt new Labour's Blackpool halls

Like the tail-thrashings of a dying dinosaur, Labour activists and trade unionists meet in Blackpool this week to protest at a new world for which many of them are feebly adapted. Compared with most other aspects of the Labour Party, its conference is still unmodernised. It represents an opportunity to make the leadership sweat a little.

True, the trade unions' voting power has been cut progressively from 90 to 50 per cent. And in theory at least, trade union delegates are free to vote individually, in practice most unions vote as a bloc. Delegates from the constituency parties are not elected by one-member-one-vote. And they often arrive with their minds made up on each motion, having been mandated in advance by their general management committees.

In which case, why bother to hold debates? The votes have mainly been sewn up in squalid backroom deals. Delegates are not going to be swayed by argument. And anyway, given that, for many years predating Tony Blair's arrival, the party leadership has taken scant notice of conference decisions, nothing is even gained by rebellion save the satisfaction of expressing discontent and the concomitant bad publicity.

But the dying throes will nonetheless be seen this week, not least from Baroness Castle, a Velociraptor so ancient that she can be dated back to the Wilson era. Her call for pensions to be linked to earnings again and for the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) to be reinstated has not even the benefit of ideological rectitude. Poor pensioners already have their pensions topped up with income support. Lady Castle's proposals would benefit the wealthy old more than the impoverished.

But if delegates defeat the leadership on pensions or any of the other controversial

questions of the week, it will represent more of a protest at Mr Blair's culture and manner of leadership than an ideological battle. And some constituency activists have found the pace of change in the party too fast to stomach. All feel (probably mistakenly) that Labour's huge poll lead insulates them from the consequences of their actions.

Ironically, that very lead is a result of Mr Blair having moved as far and as fast as he has. The difficult decisions that he has taken may have made him unpopular with some factions in his party, but they have also brought Labour creakingly close to being a late 20th-century party at last. Each decision, though, has been a gamble: the risk being that public appreciation for his reforms would be overwhelmed by dismay at the internal divisions they create. Because he is so far ahead in the polls, Mr Blair has been able to take those risks.

The aim is not simply to win the election, but to increase the probability of good government afterwards. For the Labour leader is not going to make the parachutist's mistake concentrating so hard on summoning up the nerve to jump that he realises only once airborne that he has been contemplating the wrong problem. Having studied previous administrations, Mr Blair must know that one of the main obstacles to taking tough decisions in a Labour government has been the "party itself".

By getting his "betrayal" in first, he hopes to win the arguments now rather than then. Labour activists understand that; which is why they see this week as their last chance to influence a possible Labour government. They also understand, however, that the apparent influence is illusory. No wonder they sense that the current climate is inhospitable to their survival.

NATO EXERCISE

The West must get its security priorities right again

Two years ago, war-ravaged Bosnia looked like the rock on which Nato could founder. But since the Dayton peace agreement and the deployment of the Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor), Bosnia has become instead a safety valve for the alliance. The peace its presence has so far kept is almost secondary to the harmony that it has wrought within Nato and the lifeline of co-operation that it has kept open between Nato and Russia.

This was illustrated at the informal meeting of Nato defence ministers in Bergen last week. Russia's new defence minister, Igor Rodionov, reiterated Moscow's objections to Nato's plans for new members, which America insists must go ahead next year. But he enthused about Russian participation in a new force for Bosnia after Ifor's mandate expires this December.

The reason is obvious. In Ifor America has made good its promise that Russia will be central to "a security circle for all of Europe". But on Nato's expansion, nothing that America says about special partnership can obscure, for Moscow, the fact that it is against Russia that the democracies of Central Europe want protection.

Nato is a military alliance, based on the exchange of absolute guarantees of mutual defence and an integrated military structure, which its creators intended to keep the US "in" Europe, Germany "down" and the Soviet Union "out". Nato has failed to convince Russia that this third dimension has fallen into disuse; it has failed because no such explanation could be entirely honest. By pressing ahead with plans for a summit, next year, at which "several" countries will be invited to start accession talks, Nato is walking into a confrontation with Russia that it cannot be certain of handling safely.

Nato members insist that they are politically ready for expansion, but it is far from clear that the alliance is financially and operationally ready. The absorption of new members will cost money — at a time when

national defence budgets are in steep decline, and nowhere steeper than in the countries seeking admission. It will also take time, and during the transition period, the credibility of Nato's Article 5 guarantee, which was contestable during the Cold War, will inevitably be weakened.

The Allies may be correct in their assessment that low credibility can be afforded at a time of low threat; but there remains the risk that threats could escalate faster than credibility. The most difficult problem of all is that the more successful Nato is at reinventing itself for this larger membership, the more this risks aggravating Russia's sense of isolation.

Hence, the Nato case that enlargement will enhance European security has not been convincingly made. Some officials in America are now loyally with a radical solution to the Russian Question — an offer modelled on the 30-year period, now ending, during which France had full political membership of Nato without being part of the integrated military structure. But that has alarmed America's Nato partners and as it is not yet Washington policy, Moscow remains unconvinced.

All this makes little sense. If European governments are serious about enhancing the Continent's stability, they should be at least equally in haste to enlarge the European Union eastward. EU enlargement carries no risk of alienating Russia or increasing the vulnerability of the countries left in noman's land. Yet every light down that track is set at amber, if not red. Nato enlargement is a neat way of keeping the EU door shut. This is a policy of historic irresponsibility, outranking even the miserable fumbling while the Balkans drifted into war. The West is still recovering from that failure. It should think hard about the damage it will inflict on itself, let alone Poland, if it again, on a broader canvas, gets its security priorities back to front.

HISTORIC JOCKEY

To win seven races in an afternoon turns men into gods

A rare defining moment in sport took place on Ascot racecourse at the weekend. Frankie Dettori won all seven races in an afternoon. No half-legendarily centaur, not even Lester Piggott or Sir Gordon Richards, has done that before. The odds against Dettori's achievement were at 25,095 to 1. By the seventh race bookmakers' tick-tacking (and flapping in other ways) had cut the odds on his unpromising seventh mount, Fujiyama Crest, from 12-1 to make it an improbable 2-1 favourite. Nevertheless, several modest punters still won £500,000 for a £20 stake, and a spokesman for William Hill declared it "the worst day in bookmaking history", with losses calculated at £18 million.

In terms of other sports this was the equivalent of a racing driver winning every race in the Grand Prix, a bowler taking ten wickets in an innings of a Test Match and then making a century, or a golfer scoring straight birdies in the final round of the Open, ending with a hole in one at the 18th. Most sport is by definition ephemeral, its triumphs and disasters forgotten by the following Saturday. That is the intense trivial pursuit of sport. But just a very few sporting occasions stick in the memory. England winning the World Cup against Germany in extra time, Botham's Test or Lara's score, Borg versus McEnroe in that nail-biting Wimbledon final, or Obolensky's try shimmying through the centre against New

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Britain's decision on joining 'inevitable' single currency

From Sir Richard Faber

Sir, You say (leading article, September 24) that if Mr Kenneth Clarke were to go from the Cabinet he "would be less missed than he would like to think and little mourned". Why are you so sure of this?

We all know that he has opponents in the Conservative Party, both at Westminster and outside. But he also has supporters, who see in him some guarantee against the surrender of the party to anti-European dogmatism.

Of course there are dangers, as well as possible advantages, in a common European currency (letters, September 25, 26 and 27). We ought to have had a reasoned debate about them; but this has not been easy in the prevailing political turmoil. Whatever the conclusions of such a debate might have been, we seem currently to have little power to influence the decisions of our main European partners.

By now it is apparently not so much a question of whether or not a common European currency is a good thing. It is whether, if there is one, we can afford to stay out of it if not, it must surely be in our interest to join sooner rather than later.

We are fearful of losing national sovereignty. But for centuries we have regarded our sovereignty as threatened, or at least circumscribed, when there has been a dominant power on the continent of Europe beyond our effective influence or control.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FABER,
De l'Angle House, The Green,
Chartwell, Canterbury, Kent.
September 24.

From the Editor of New European

Sir, There is one way in which Cabinet unity could be restored on the question of a single currency. The Government should go back to John Major's original proposal to create a hard ecu as a common currency. I know both Eurosceptics and genuine federalists who would be happy with that arrangement.

A hard ecu would leave business people and people on holiday with a handy currency to use for European transactions. No one need be locked into it — and we know the dangers of being locked in. It would also make it much easier to bring the East European countries into the Union.

When I suggested this to Sir Leon

Church music

From the Reverend K. W. Clinch

Sir, I think your correspondent Mrs Linda Brooks (September 20; see also letters, September 12, 16, 23, 25) is less than fair to church organists. I see their role as being much more than providing musical accompaniment.

Music can be, and is in many churches, used to "set the scene", as it were. In the days when I was a parish priest I often told my people what I was taught at Sunday school many years ago: "Before the service, talk to God. During the service, let God talk to you. After the service, talk with your friends."

Too many congregations ignore this these days, but a sensitive organist, with appropriate music, can encourage a prayerful silence on the part of a congregation before the service.

Having said that, however, I have to admit that I have heard many post-service volunteers of such exuberance that "talking with friends" is out of the question.

Yours faithfully,
K. W. CLINCH,
Brae Cottage,
193 Hastings Road,
Battle, East Sussex.
September 25.

From Professor Irving S. Benjamin

Sir, The practice of playing popular tunes in the guise of organ voluntaries did not end with Mrs Whitworth's great-aunt's generation (letter, September 23).

In the 1960s I played guitar in a trio which did the rounds of church socials, dances, etc. The pianist in the group was also our assistant church organist, and it was his habit to disguise current hit tunes in this manner, to the great amusement of those of us in the choir stalls who were in the know and could enjoy a game of "spot the tune".

My clearest memory is of his rendition of "Telstar", the Tornados' hit single of 1962, as a baroque toccata. Several members of the congregation who had listened with great attention, but no recognition, approached him after the service to congratulate him and ask who the composer was; to which he replied that it was a "bulwark against tyranny" remains true.

In a jury trial, the prosecution must establish its case beyond reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of 12 individuals who have no personal interest in the justice system. As such, the trial is made a more open and fairer process; it is not simply a "rubber-stamping" of some predetermined view. Blackstone's point that the jury is a "bulwark against tyranny" remains true.

Much of the discussion about the Maxwell trial (letters, September 21, 26) has assumed that the jury were too

stupid to understand the case before them. In reality, after listening for months to the evidence, I believe that they were better placed than anyone to assess the guilt or innocence of the defendants. Yet, many now have a low view of the capacity of their peers to judge them.

I regard the fact that only about 1 per cent of criminal cases in England and Wales are now heard by juries as a major erosion of a basic freedom, and I would argue that the jury is a necessary, if not a sufficient, means to ensure justice.

Yours faithfully,
IRVING S. BENJAMIN,
16 Denmark Road, Ealing, W13.
September 24.

From Mr James Macmillan

Sir, At High Mass at Ampleforth Abbey in the late 1950s a young monk played *She Wore Red Feathers* and a *Hula-Hula Skirt*.

Johann Sebastian himself, if alive,

might have thought it was his; the abbot, rumour had it, did. Certainly the young monk was still at the organ the following Sunday.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACMILLAN,
Curling Tie Cottage,
Freedom and Law,
c/o PO Box 7, 64 Goode Street, W1.
September 25.

مكتبة من الأصل

When the train took the strain

From Mr Andrew Dow

Sir, Your leading article, "Myth and steam" (September 25), was less than fair to the old LNER. Its entrepreneurial skills led to a six-hour, non-stop service between London and Edinburgh in 1937, with the smooth ride of articulated carriages, superb catering and the attractions of an observation saloon.

The LNER offered hairdressing salons, on-board radio reception, cinema cars, secretarial services and showers in sleeping cars. It pioneered longer rails to eliminate bumpy joints and introduced forced-air ventilation, the precursor of air conditioning, so that windows need not be open through smoky tunnels.

The Flying Scotsman, Coronation and *The Silver Jubilee* trains were the epitome of luxury transport. In pre-war days, air and road services were, by comparison, execrable. The LNER showed the others the way.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW DOW (Head,
National Railway Museum, 1992-94),
Sycamore House, Station Lane,
Shipton-by-Beningbrough, York.
September 25.

From Mr B. D. J. Walsh

Sir, The timetables for 1939 show that one could travel from London to Edinburgh in considerably less than the eight hours you allege. The *Coronation* took six hours from King's Cross, maintaining an average speed of 71.9 mph over the whole distance between London and York, which necessitated at least 90 mph over the faster portions of the line. Trains between London and Newcastle, Leeds and Bradford averaged between 60 and 67 mph over the whole journey.

These trains served meals and refreshments throughout the journey, whereas now buffet cars are closed at intervals. The *Coronation* had an observation car, *The Flying Scotsman* a ladies' retiring room, and the seats were much more comfortable than some of those available now.

The service is more frequent and faster than it was, but one should expect some improvement over more than 50 years.

Yours faithfully,
B. D. J. WALSH (President,
The Railway Club, 1982-94),
The Old Rectory,
Burgh, Diss, Norfolk.
September 25.

From Mr W. J. Alcock

Sir, By the late 1930s the summer non-stop *Flying Scotsman* was taking only seven hours on a journey which might arguably have been described as romantic.

During and after the war the time had expanded to 8½ hours, often because of late running. At this period the train was often 20 or more coaches long and the journey hardly romantic.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ALCOCK,
St Andrew,
Midhurst Road, Haslemere, Surrey.
September 25.

From Mr Harry Scotting

Sir, The steam engine *Flying Scotsman* is not lying boxed in pieces. It has been carefully stripped down, its parts being thoroughly reconditioned, and last week I witnessed a devoted team re-tying the front bogie wheels.

Pullman carriages are also being fully restored and there are plans to run a "real" *Flying Scotsman* train.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY SCOTTING,
Plas Cwmlecoedog,
Aberangell, Nr Machynlleth, Powys.
September 25.

Not guilty

From Mr Tony Wilmet

Sir, Lynne Truss, in her television review of September 24, writes of "Bodkin Adams, the infamous doctor who murdered a patient for the money". He may well have done just that; but in fact he was famously acquitted of the charge at the Old Bailey — and later won substantial damages from the many newspapers which had presumed his guilt in print.

Happily for you and Miss Truss, Adams died in 1983.

Yours sincerely,
A. WILMET (Member,
Crime Writers' Association),
3 Lansdowne Court,
1 Lansdowne Road, SW30.
September 24.

Dress code

From Dr A. Freedman

Sir, We elderly gents are frequently guilty of carelessness in our dress. On one such occasion recently a friend said to me "XYZ", a remark which totally baffled me. The explanation was "Examine your zip".

I suspect this is a private family code as neither I nor my immediate acquaintance have heard it before. It seems an admirably concise and gentle way of absolving the sins of senility, which I command to your readers, unless, of course, they know of a better.

Yours truly,
ARNOLD FREEDMAN,
5 Chadlington Road, Oxford.
September 27.

Sport letters, page 36

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.



Birthdays today

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 28: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening attended the Anniversary Ball onboard Queen Elizabeth 2 at Southampton.

KENNINGTON PALACE
September 28: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scoff as a Service of Thanksgiving for the Dowager Countess of May and Kellie which was held at St Mungo's Church, Alcester, Warwickshire, this afternoon.

The Duke of Gloucester, President British Consul General, this afternoon departed Heathrow Airport to accompany the Mission to Vietnam, Philippines and Indonesia.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
September 28: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon attended Ascot Races and presented The Queen's Trophy for The Queen Elizabeth II Stakes.

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 29: Divine Service was held in Crathie Parish Church this morning. The Reverend Dr Steven Todd preached the sermon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 29: The Princess Royal, Patron, BT Global Challenge, today started the race from the ferry "Duchess of Gloucester" of Gilkester Point, Southampton Water, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Pagan).

Royal engagements
The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, will attend the annual equestrian awards ceremony at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 12.30; and, as Past President, the Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend the Past Presidents' Dinner at the Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, WC2 at 5.40.

Princess Alexandra will visit St Clement's School, Tullach Street, Dingwall, Ross and Cromarty, at 2.00; and will open the Puffin Hydrotherapy Pool at 3.10.

Nature notes

Flocks of rooks spread out over the fields, some settling among the sprouting winter wheat, some on the young sugarbeet, some on the earth that has just been ploughed and harrowed. They join up again when one finds a patch particularly rich in food, and start quarrelling. Woodpigeons and jackdaws also join them.



The rook

Skylarks are flying around together, skirmishing in the sky, as they begin to plot out their winter territories on the land below. Yellowhammers are gathering in flocks in the hedges at this time of year, they have a note like a brief trill of water. They keep their yellow head plumage in

the winter, but it becomes more streaky. Leaves are changing colour earlier this year. The hawthorns are the most dramatic at present, with deep red, purple, pink and yellow leaves, as well as crimson berries. Some birch woods are now almost entirely yellow. Lombardy poplars have a golden glow. Oaks and beeches are still dark green, but odd individual leaves are turning brown. Michaelmas daisies that have naturalised in the wild are in flower on railway embankments. Other flowers still to be seen include white campion, yarrow, in both white and pink varieties, and purple mallow. DJM

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

DEATHS

SHEPPARD - On 21st September 1996, in Soho (John Moore) and Richard, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Hope, a sister to Jessica, and a son, David. 2 Timothy 2: 19.

BIRTHS

EDWARDS - On September 25th, in Luxembourg, to Ursula and Michael, a daughter, Olivia Anna. 20th.

MURRAY-POORE - On September 25th, to Victoria and Jennifer, a daughter, Jennifer Elizabeth. 20th.

SHAW - On Wednesday 26th September, at 2.15pm, at St. Paul's, Whitefriars, William Arthur Frederick, a brother for Hope.

TAYLOR-NESTON - On 20th September 1996, to Lynne, born to decent Texys, born to me, and we will be together for life.

DEATHS

HOBSON - Michael Hobson, MBE, FRCR, aged 76, died September 5th. Thanksgiving Service St. Thomas' Hospital, Westminister, October 19th at 12 noon. No flowers. Donations to Injured Jockeys Fund, Welwyn, Herts. A65 923.

DAY - Harold, former night Correspondent of the *Times*, died September 7th, after a long illness, following a stroke on 25th September. 1996. Dearily loved father of Andrew, Colin and Joanne and grandsons, David and David, will be sadly missed. Donations if desired to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

GRANT - Jean (née Stewart) at home in Bristol on September 26th 1996. Much loved and loving wife of Ian Murphy. Son of the late André and Berthe Béatrice and dear brother of June (née Béatrice). Burial at Château Des Charrains Cemetery France after a long service of thanksgiving at St. Paul's Church, Bristol on October 3rd at 10.00am. Details from Arnolds Funeral Services, Bedford Tel: 01234 339742. No flowers please.

FEARNSIDE - On 26th September 1996 at home, in Luton, Bedfordshire, Frederick High, aged 80. Very dear husband of Alice, father of Alan, followed by meeting for wake-up at Queen Mother Hospital, Luton on October 4th at 11.00am. Details from Arnolds Funeral Services, Bedford Tel: 01234 339742. No flowers please.

THOMAS - Vivian John Thomas, CBE, born 1906, died July 1996, aged 92. There will be a Memorial Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, London EC4 on Friday October 3rd at 11.15 am to be followed by cremation. Family flowers only but donations to the Royal British Legion or British Dilettante Association if desired, as a tribute to friendship.

WHITEFIELD - On September 27th, 1996, peacefully at home, in a short illness, and at 9.00pm, his beloved mother of 24 and Bobbie and grandmother of Mark, Sophie, Henry, Michael, Gemma and Sera. Cremation on Thursday October 3rd at 12.00 noon at Tunbridge Wells Cemetery. Funeral Directors J. Hooper and Son. Tel: 01225 222040.

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W

OBITUARIES

LESLIE CROWTHER

Leslie Crowther, CBE, actor and comedian, died on September 28 of heart failure aged 63. He was born in Nottingham on February 6, 1933.

A generation grew up laughing at Leslie Crowther's jokes. He was a firmly established star of television for more than 30 years, but he will be best remembered for his long run with the popular children's programme *Crackerjack* in the 1960s. It turned him, as he once self-mockingly put it, into a modern Pied Piper. Wherever he went, children would follow, waiting for him to perform his well-known trick of raising his "double-jointed" eyebrows, which guaranteed shrieks of laughter.

He joined the programme in 1960, delighting the millions of young viewers with his antics and his cheeky banting of the show's host, Eamonn Andrews. He took over from Andrews as anchorman four years later.

Crowther, who was to have five of his own, instinctively knew what made children laugh. He was the perfect prankster, his expressive face like some naughty schoolboy's and his infectious giggle never far away.

His lively comedy was broad without being vulgar, and he scored an equal success with adult viewers when he moved on to become one of the stars in the long-running *Black and White Minstrel Show*. A classically-trained pianist, he regularly played with another of the show's stars, comedian and jazz trombonist, George Chisholm, in foot-about musical numbers.

However, after *Crackerjack* his biggest television success was as game show host of the runaway 1980s hit *The Price Is Right*, in which he coined his best-known catchphrase, "Come on down". He later went on to present a popular television talent show, *Stars in their Eyes*.

On *The Price is Right*, Crowther's ability to coax people into making utter idiots of themselves in order to win a new bedroom suite or deep-freeze became almost legendary. Critics mocked the show with accusations of avarice and unsophistication, but it never worried the host — nor the 13 million viewers.

Tall and darkly handsome — he later regularly had his hair dyed to keep himself looking young, as he cheerfully admitted — he became the housewives' favourite. Many



of those housewives had been fans of *Crackerjack* as girls.

Determined to broaden his range to include comedy acting, Crowther also starred in situation comedies, such as the successful *My Good Woman*, with Sylvia Syms, and the less successful *The Reluctant Romeo*, with Eunice Gayson. He had several of his own series in the 1970s, among them *The Saturday Crowd*, *Crowther's In Town* and *The Leslie Crowther Show*.

Leslie at the top, on the stage as well as radio and television, made him wealthy. At his peak he was reputed to be earning £300,000 annually from his showbusiness work and another £40,000 a year from his enduring television commercial for margarine, in which he challenged tasters to tell it from butter.

He and his wife Jean developed a love of antiques, and they regularly drove to auctions in his Rolls-Royce looking for new pieces to add to their collection. He would refer drily to his Georgian mansion near Bath as being

more like the Victoria and Albert Museum than the family home. When he was featured as a "victim" on television's *This is Your Life*, the host, Eamonn Andrews stepped out of a sedan chair at an antiques exhibition to confront Crowther with the famous red book containing his life story.

Leslie Douglas Sargent Crowther, an only child, was born in West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, of parents who were both in showbusiness. His mother was a stage manager and director and his father a character actor and comedian, although he later retired from the stage to work in the post office. The family moved to London so that Crowther could study piano after he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music.

The parents saw their son act in a play at Thames Valley Grammar School, decided he was a natural exhibitionist, and sent him to drama school, where he met fellow student Jean Stone. They worked together as Jean and Leslie in

the once popular *Ovaltines* radio programme; the couple were married in 1954. Crowther's first job after graduation was as a spear carrier in doublet and hose at the Open Air Theatre in London's Regent's Park, followed by another radio show called *Accent on Youth*.

Then came years of steady work touring with the Fol-de-Rols concert party, which featured the likes of Arthur Askey and Jack Warner, and where Crowther acquired the skills which turned him into the reliable all-round performer he became, able to sing, dance and be funny. The experience proved, as he would often observe, a sound basis for his radio and television success, as well as the stage and cabaret circuit.

For a man who seemed to be a naturally amiable optimist with a gift for quick-fire humour, he had more than his share of sadness and setbacks in his private life, occasionally finding himself in the headlines for unhappy reasons.

One such occasion was

when his daughter Caroline's marriage to the late Thin Lizzy rock star Phil Lynott broke up because of Lynott's drug addiction. Crowther himself confessed to becoming at one time a "binge drinker", largely because of the pressure of his workload. He entered a drying-out clinic and was able to give up drinking and a heavy smoking habit completely.

Following the death of Lynott, Crowther strongly condemned what he called the "mindless killers" who peddle drugs. He worked prodigiously for charity and would attend as many as four functions a week. Only if he thought an organisation could afford it would he charge a fee, which would in turn go to one of his own favourite charities, usually linked with the Lord's Taverners, of which he was a former president. In 1993 he was appointed CBE for his charity work.

His favourite interests outside of showbusiness were cricket — playing and watching — and adding to two of his valuable collections: Victorian

pot lids that once covered products ranging from tooth powder to meat paste, and the *Vanity Fair* series of cricketing cartoons by Spy.

His absorption with cricket bordered on the fanatical; he even bought himself a flat overlooking Lord's. Referring to his playing days, he coined his own cricketing epithet: "Good catcher, shame about the batting".

Leslie Crowther, who could look almost scholarly in the heavy-rimmed spectacles he wore off-screen, recognised that he was in a bitchy profession — as he wryly remarked, some people would ensure that you never missed reading a bad review about yourself. Yet he remained popular and well respected as a hard-working professional, with many close friends in the business.

He regularly starred in pantomime and summer seasons, and in the stage version of the *Black and White Minstrels* at London's Victoria Palace. He once recalled a chilling experience when he forgot the punchline to a joke while appearing before the Queen Mother at the Royal Variety Performance: "I just turned towards her and said, 'Wouldn't it be a better idea to play the piano instead of finishing the story?'

He wrote many of his own scripts, devising jokes while driving to his next engagement; he estimated 25 miles to one good joke. As a funnyman he was a realist. He once said: "If you're over-tired, doing your act automatically, or you are under-rehearsed, it shows. I've watched my failures and I don't like it. You keep on working if you want things to stay good."

It was while he was driving to a charity appearance in 1992 that Crowther's career nearly came to an end, when his Rolls-Royce overturned on the M5 near Cheltenham. He had two hours of surgery to remove a blood clot and lay in a coma for 17 days. Survival seemed unlikely, but he eventually struggled towards recovery.

In 1994, however, aware that he could no longer meet his own high standards as a performer, he announced his retirement from showbusiness and his intention to spend more time on writing after the publication of his autobiography, *The Bonus of Laughter*. "There will be no more 'Come on down', he said, "I suppose you could say I'm hanging up my Crackerjack pen." His wife, son and four daughters survive him.

NICO COLCHESTER

Nicholas Colchester, OBE, journalist, died of a heart attack on September 25 aged 49. He was born on December 30, 1946.

A BRILLIANT financial journalist, and the man who turned the Mars Bar into a latter-day version of the gold standard. Nico Colchester never quite found an editorial position commensurate with his talents. After 18 successful years at the *Financial Times*, he was beaten to the post of deputy editor — which at the FT was seen as an essential step on the way to the editorship — by his friend Richard Lambert. Then, at *The Economist*, which he joined in 1986 and where he was deputy editor from 1989, he failed to succeed to the top job when Rupert Pennant-Rea left to become Deputy Governor of the Bank of England in 1993.

At the time of his sudden death, while out training for a charity marathon in New York, he was editorial director of the Economist Intelligence Unit, a job he did well and which he enjoyed, but one rather different from the two more public posts on which he had earlier set his sights.

The son of the Rev Halsey Colchester — probably the only career officer of the Secret Intelligence Service to become, on retirement, a clergyman of the Church of England — Nicholas Benedict Sparrowe Colchester was educated at Radley and at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read Engineering and Economics and learnt to fly.

He joined the *Financial Times* direct from Oxford in 1968, after writing a test piece about the state of British Leyland and surviving an interview with the formidable editor, Sir Gordon Newton. Colchester thought he was being employed to write about technology, but on arrival found himself assigned instead to corporate finance. He thrived at the FT, writing with easy authority on a wide range of topics. Key foreign postings followed: first to the paper's New York office, in 1970; then, in 1974, to Bonn.

In 1977 he returned to the FT's London office as financial news editor, and played an important part in the development of foreign market coverage, which followed the decision to print a European edition of the paper in Frankfurt. He was able to consolidate this work when he became foreign editor in 1981. Over the next five years he showed himself to be an able administrator, increasing edi-

torial efficiency while boosting the quality of the paper's specialist foreign reporting.

Colchester's own writing during these years combined serious research and considered judgment with a lightness of touch not common in financial journalism. It was at the FT, for instance, that he discovered in the Mars Bar an effective index of inflation, its changes in size and weight ensuring that its value remained constant even in times of rising prices.

In 1986, on the retirement of M.H. "Freddy" Fisher, Geoffrey Owen moved into the FT editor's chair. Disappointed at not being appointed to Owen's old post of deputy, Colchester joined *The Economist*, eventually becoming deputy editor to Rupert Pennant-Rea in 1989.

When Pennant-Rea returned to the Bank of England as Deputy Governor in 1993,

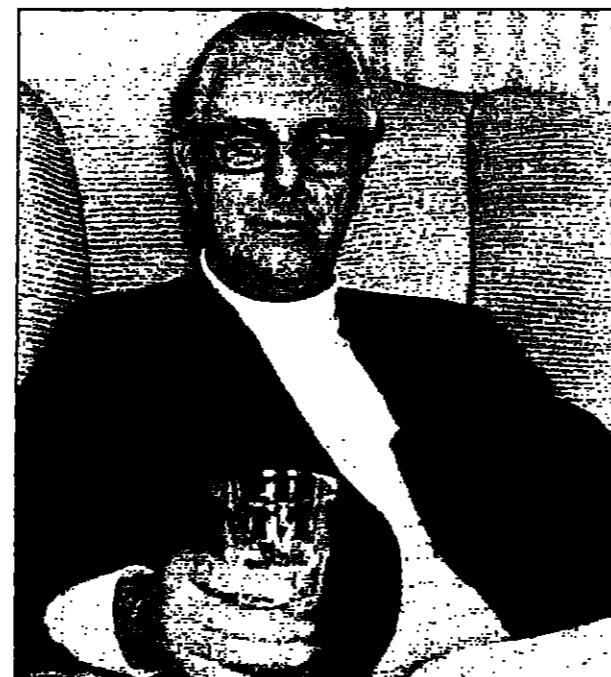


Colchester hoped to succeed him as editor. In the end, he was one of two serious candidates; but it was the other, Bill Emmott, who got the job. Colchester moved on to the Economist Intelligence Unit, overseeing its extensive output of reports on international political and economic developments. It was a task he found both demanding and rewarding, and it went some way to compensate for those earlier disappointments.

In the *Economist's* editorial policy Colchester had found and helped to develop a congenial mix of market economics and pragmatically pro-European thinking. Impatient with Euro-scepticism, he was the co-author of *Europe Re-launched* (1990), and was appointed OBE in 1993 for his writing on the development of the European Union. He was also a Chevalier of the French Order of Merit, and spent part of each year in a much-loved second home in France.

He married in 1976 and is survived by his wife, Laurence Schloesing, and two sons.

PROFESSOR STUART PIGGOTT



Stuart Piggott, CBE, FBA, Abercromby Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology at Edinburgh 1946-1972, died on September 23 aged 81. He was born on May 28, 1910.

STUART PIGGOTT was notable for many things, among them having never taken an undergraduate degree and having been elected to the Abercromby Chair at Edinburgh before obtaining a graduate one. He had worked his way up in British archaeology from being a professional draughtsman to become one of the acknowledged experts on the later prehistory of Europe, and was also an early exponent of the historiography of archaeology.

Piggott's charm and early enthusiasm for prehistoric archaeology attracted the support of established figures such as O.G.S. Crawford, founder of *Antiquity*, and Harold Peake, the leading amateur and author, and he was able to join the staff of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments for Wales.

For five years he gained experience in surveying and recording a wide range of

antiquities, and then in 1934 was recruited by Alexander Keiller, the marmalade maker and another distinguished amateur of archaeology, to be Assistant Director of his Merton Institute of Archaeology based at Avebury Manor in Wiltshire. Keiller carried out extensive excavations at the Avebury stone circles and nearby monuments.

Stuart Piggott had already published a dozen papers in professional journals, including several of national standing, before he was 20, and his study of the Neolithic pottery of the British Isles in the *Archaeological Journal* for 1931 was a seminal work from which ultimately stemmed his major book on *The Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles* (1954).

By the time he joined the Army on the outbreak of war, Piggott had more than 70 publications, most of them papers on British neolithic sites and especially their pottery, to his credit; that in 1942 he was posted to India, where he served under the late Glyn Daniel and later evaded an invitation to work with Mortimer Wheeler, newly-appointed Director-General of Archaeology. Piggott ended up in charge of military air-photographic intelligence for South-East Asia, and also assembled the material for two books, *Some Ancient Cities of India* (1946) and *Prehistoric Cultures of India* (1950), the latter a pioneering synthesis.

On returning to England he went up to St John's College, Oxford to take a B.Litt.; his thesis on the 18th-century antiquary William Stukeley was published in 1950 (and revised in 1985). At the same time, he was invited to succeed V. Gordon Childe as Abercromby Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology at Edinburgh, a post he held until his retirement in 1977; the university

conferred an honorary Lit.D. on him in 1984. He had already received an honorary degree from Columbia University (1954) and been elected to the British Academy (1953), and from 1968-74 was a trustee of the British Museum.

Although he undertook a

certain amount of excavation in Scotland, for example at Cairnpapple Hill and the Dailly Long Barrow, and published a popular book, *Scotland Before History* (1958), Piggott was always happiest working in his native Wessex.

In partnership with Professor Richard Atkinson he undertook major excavations on three key Neolithic sites: Stonehenge, and two megalithic tombs, Wayland's Smithy and the West Kennet Long Barrow. The West Kennet report, which appeared in 1963, was a good example of Piggott's abilities as excavator, draughtsman and author.

His interest in the history of archaeology, begun with Stukeley, continued with a study of William Camden and the *Britannia* (1951) and a number of papers on antiquarian thought later collected in *Ruins in a Landscape* (1977). His book on the Druids (1968) took an historical approach to a problem of protohistoric contact, and his work in this field reached fruition in *Ancient Britons and the Antiquarian Imagination* (1989), which portrayed all archaeology prior to the 19th century as casual and sporadic, in contrast to the school of thought which saw a clear intellectual progression from Renaissance onwards.

Piggott's interest in later prehistory extended into Europe, where his breadth of knowledge was second only to that of Childe. *Ancient Europe* (1965) was a masterly survey of the archaeological evidence "from the beginnings of agriculture to Classical antiquity", and was followed in 1983 by *The First Wheeled Vehicles*, developed out of a 1968 paper for the Prehistoric Society and bringing to Western notice the important early carts and wagons from the Caucasus. A subsequent paper compared Piggott's abilities as excavator, draughtsman and author.

Ancient Europe (1965) was an introduction to the discipline for the teenager and interested adult, and showed what archaeologists did and why. Unlike many of his colleagues, Stuart Piggott was happily productive outside archaeology: his poems *Fire Among the Ruins 1942-1945* were followed by contributions to *Modern Verse 1900-1950* and by translations of some of Martial's epigrams for Michael Grant's *Roman Readings*.

He was a gregarious, unpompous and hospitable man, and the range of his friendships can be essayed from the *Festschrift* offered on his sixtieth birthday *To Illustrate The Monuments* (1976), which included a frontispiece by John Piper (of the megalithic tomb of Pentre Ifan in Dyfed), a dedicatory poem by John Betjeman, then Poet Laureate, ending "...I'm glad that I survive to greet you, Stuart, now you're sixty-five", and papers from both sides of the Iron Curtain and the Atlantic.

In the 1950s and early 1960s archaeology became a popular craze with such television programmes as *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?*, and Stuart Piggott was a naturally articulate communicator. Together with the late Glyn Daniel he launched several series of popular books, and edited *The Third Programme* was the concept of Sir William Haley, who saw it as providing the best in music and the spoken word. That it fulfilled that purpose was due in no small part to Sir George Barnes, its first Controller. Sir William was Editor of *The Times* 1952-66. B.B.C., in an introductory talk on the new programme, said that if the principle behind it were right, it might become one of the most significant steps in the development of broadcasting. "It must not always be playing safe," he said. "It must reflect the world of living as well as dead artists, and stimulate the new as well as sustain the old. It must have the help of the creative artists of today." fears had been expressed that the Third Programme would mean the segregation of all cultural material within it and the elimination of much that was worth-while from the existing services. That was not their intention. The three programmes would fit into each other.

START OF NEW B.B.C. PROGRAMME

From Our Broadcasting Correspondent
Another stage in the progress of broadcasting was reached yesterday when the Third Programme became part of the B.B.C. Home Service, thus providing listeners in this country with three contrasting programmes from which to choose their evening's entertainment — a choice wider than any other European broadcasting organization has offered its listeners on the medium waveband. Since the programme is being radiated by a large number of low-power transmitters in the more densely populated parts of the country, reception was "patchy," and in certain areas unobtainable; but where it was heard in adequate strength the musical quality of reproduction was exceedingly good. In those less-favoured areas which were to have been covered by the main transmission on 514.6 metres had it not been necessary to reduce the power of the Droitwich station because of interference on that wave-length from "Soviet-Latvia," the BBC hopes soon to provide additional local transmitters so as to bring the Third Programme within reach of the great majority who would wish to hear it ... Sir William Haley, Director General of the

ON THIS DAY

September 30, 1946

At this, the first Cannes Festival, British prestige was upheld by Brief Encounter

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

From Our Special Correspondent
CANNES, Sept 28
For a week now the high and handsome cinema in the municipal casino has enjoyed the babel of languages, and jury and critics are halfway through a marathon of physical endurance and mental strains. There are two sessions daily, and though the arrangements in general are magnificent in their taste and amplitude there is a tendency for them to break down over detail. Punctuality seems an unattainable virtue. The conscientious cinema-goers are in the cinema, with a short break for dinner, from 3 in the afternoon until nearly 2 in the morning. The eye is surfeited with image and the ear is defeated by the ceaseless assault upon it. Nevertheless, much of interest has already fought its way free of the confusion. The British screen has evolved for itself a competent pattern of pseudo-realism, a pattern which encourages insularity, and it is healthy to realize how limited its formulas are. France, so far as artistic achievement is concerned, is well in the lead.

Latest wills

Karl Heinz Abel, of Salterstone, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,177,891 net.
Nancy Helen Menaghoff, of Wokingham, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,189,715 net.
She left her residuary estate to the following Guide Dogs for the Blind, Blue Cross, Spastics Society, Barnardo's, R.N.L.I., Marie Curie, National Foundation for Deaf Children's Society, Woodland Trust, RSPB and the Wildlife Trust — UK.
Derek Herbert Wright, dental surgeon, of Watford, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,264,712 net.
Barry James Cameron Small, of Short Heath, Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,055,482 net.
David Andrew Conder Wh

NEWS

Clarke tax gaffe is gift to Labour

■ Kenneth Clarke handed Labour a big pre-conference propaganda boost yesterday by suggesting that voters would be "deeply suspicious" of any tax cuts he made in the November Budget.

In astonishingly frank remarks, the Chancellor said people would remember that the Tories promised tax reductions at the last election and were unable to deliver Pages 1, 8, 9

Forget the past, says Blair

■ Tony Blair will bury his party's image as the political wing of the trade union movement tomorrow with a speech attempting to establish Labour as the party of enterprise in Britain. In his last Labour conference speech before the General Election, Mr Blair is expected to tell both business and unions to forget the past. Pages 1, 8, 9

Peace talks

Binjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, are to meet in Washington to try to end the bloodshed engulfing the West Bank and Gaza Pages 1, 13

Crowther dies

Leslie Crowther, the children's television favourite who changed course to become one of Britain's leading game show hosts, has died, aged 63 Page 6

Private NHS

The NHS has become the largest provider of private healthcare in Britain. In 1995 it earned £225 million from private work, just ahead of the £222.3 million earned by Bupa, its nearest rival Page 2

Record jockey

Bookmakers lost a record of at least £20 million at Ascot on Saturday after the unprecedented achievement by Frankie Dettori of becoming the first jockey to ride all seven winners at one race meeting Pages 3, 27, 37

Common law

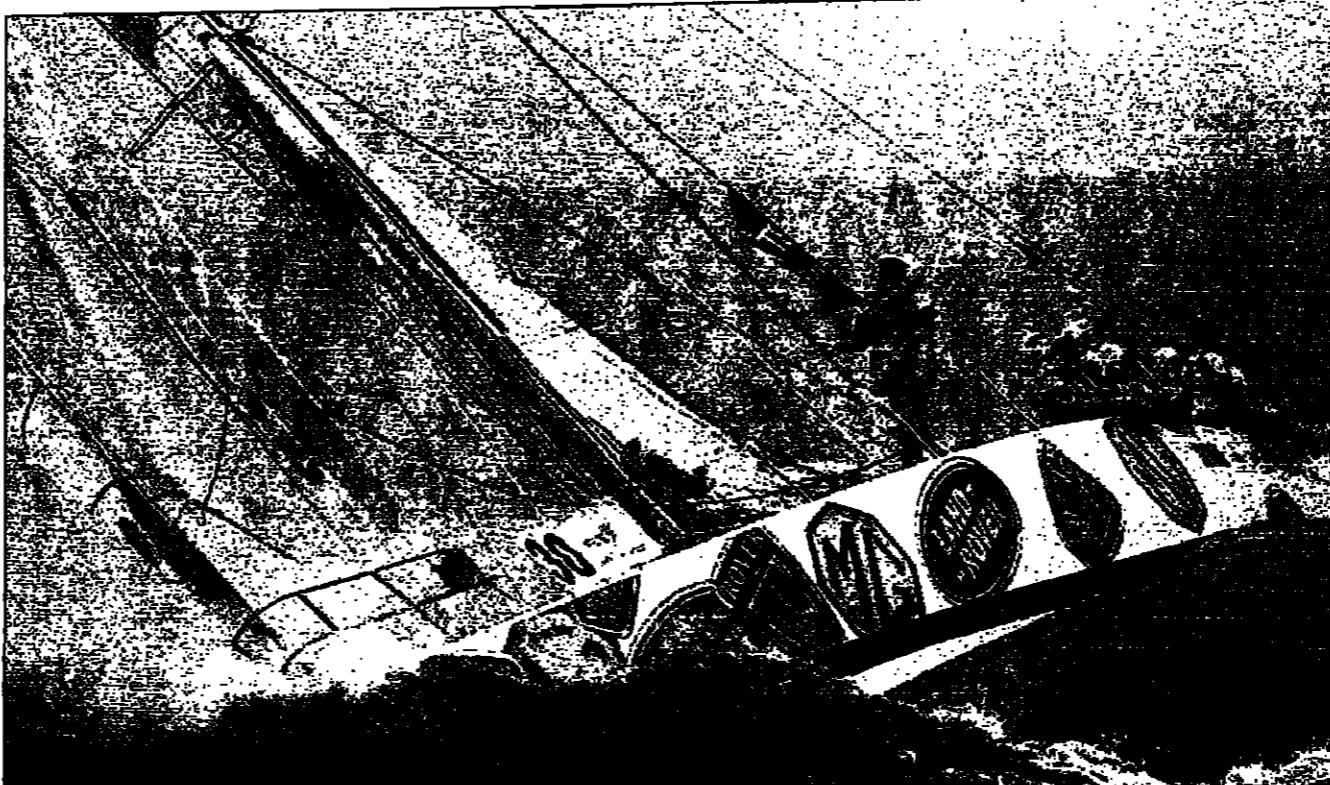
Professional dog walkers who exercise dozens of pets at a time on Wimbledon Common are being brought to heel Page 11

Flight of fancy

A British balloonist is building the biggest airship since the Hindenburg and plans a year-long trip around the world Page 5

Psychiatric tests for barking attacker

■ A dog was sent for psychiatric tests by a New York judge after it attacked its owners' granddaughter on her second birthday. Becky Bear, a white-coated akita dog, left the girl scarred and her parents, both lawyers, are claiming damages. The judge hoped an animal behaviourist would discover if the dog was usually savage Page 12



Ocean Rover attacks the waves off Southampton yesterday at the start of the BT Global Challenge Yacht Race. Pages 27, 37

BUSINESS

ARTS

SCIENCE

LIFE

MIND AND MATTER

CULTURE

TECHNOLOGY

FOOTBALL

CINEMA

LITERATURE

THEATRE

ENTERTAINMENT

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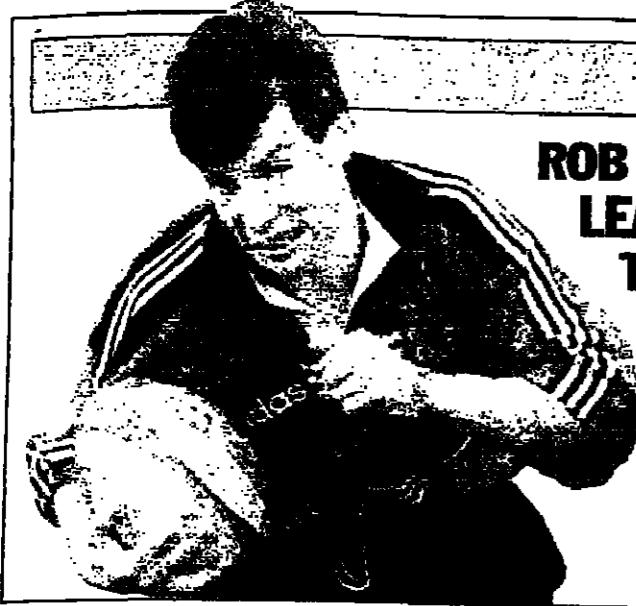
TRAVEL

HOMEGROWN

INTERVIEW

OPINION

OBITUARIES



ROB ANDREW LEADS THE PACK
Newcastle and Richmond share spoils PAGE 35

THE HEAD-ON CRUNCH
Rangers re-open old wounds PAGE 31
Full results and coverage

ROUND THE WORLD
Chay Blyth launches his Global Challenge PAGE 27



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 1996

United get value for money from Norwegian striking gem

Solskjaer sparkles with quality

Manchester United 2
Tottenham Hotspur 0

BY DAVID MILLER

A SMALL club in Norway's western fjords is an unlikely source for a solution to Alex Ferguson's deep embarrassment at the failure of Andy Cole. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, a snip at £1.5 million from little-known Molde, scored two goals against Tottenham Hotspur yesterday, the first with classic skill, that hold the promise of memorable deeds to come at Old Trafford and elsewhere.

After all those painful moments when openings flew astray off the knees or shine of the unfortunate Cole, Solskjaer's opening goal six minutes before half-time was a knife in Tottenham's heart. There is youthful innocence in the pale northern face of this 23-year-old, yet the manner in which he stole past Campbell to meet and control a dropping cross from Giggs, then leant to put Walker, in goal, off guard before sweeping the ball beyond his reach was reminiscent of the great Scandinavian forwards of the past, such as Nordahl and Simonsson.

The authority of his lethal finishing made less significant the quiet performance of Cantona, for whom captaincy is clearly not a benefit but seemingly a diversion from his natural role as Scarlet Pimpernel.

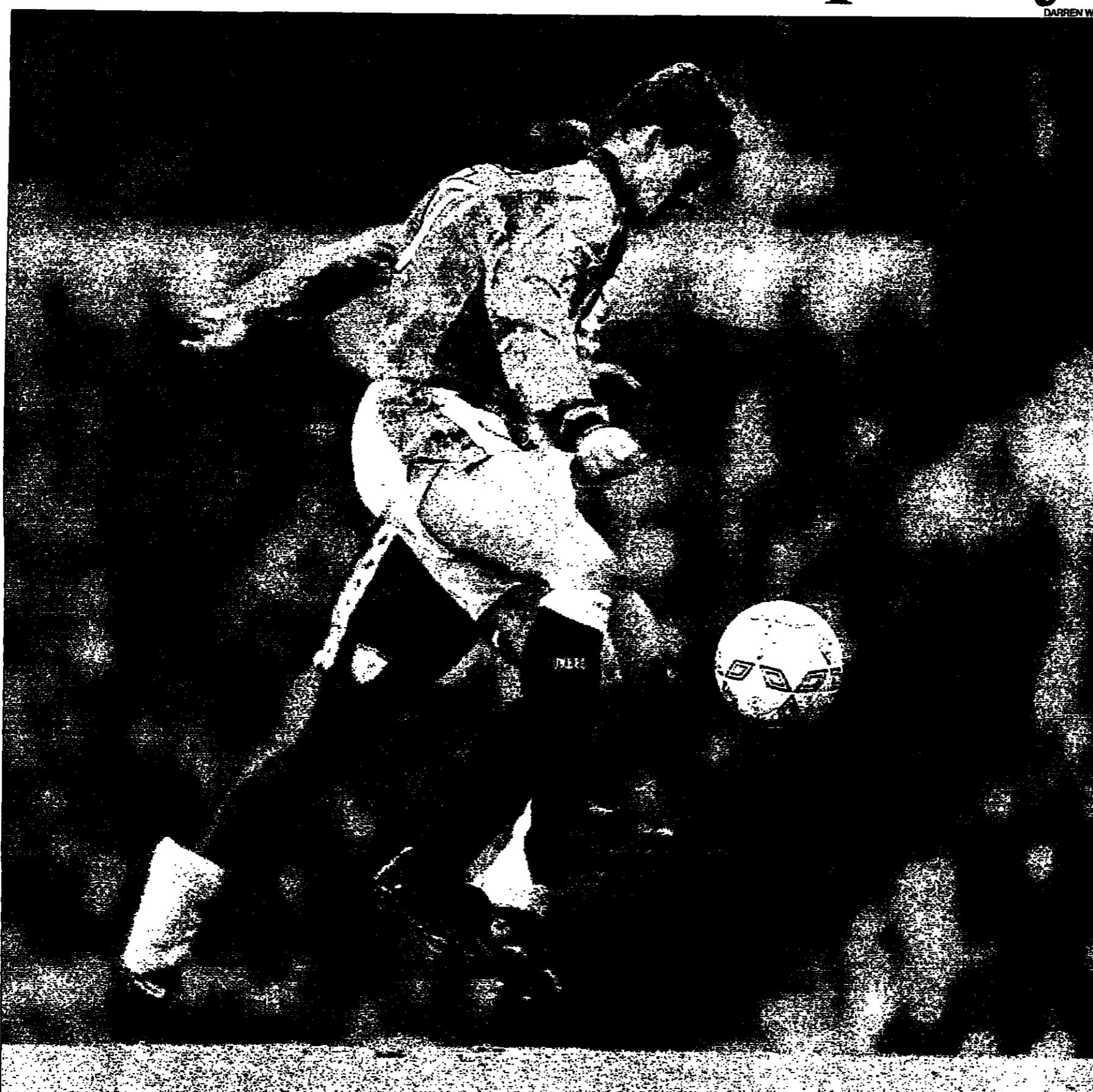
Liverpool go clear 28
Arsenal 29
Steve McManaman 29
Results and tables 30
Celtic suffer 31

free of collective responsibility. He is essentially a player to inspire by deed rather than instruction.

Solskjaer's goals bring his tally to five (including one against Rapid Vienna in the European Cup Champions' League), in eight appearances, four of those as a substitute. On this evidence, Ferguson need lose no sleep about Alan Shearer having preferred to join Newcastle United, quite apart from having saved a tidy sum. Shearer is unlikely to score a goal as masterful as Solskjaer's first if he plays until he is 50. Meanwhile Cole, regularly on display on the sale shelf as substitute, may conveniently tempt some Nationwide League first division manager with ambition and, if Ferguson is lucky, a spare million or two.

Yesterday's match, which Manchester won comfortably to move into third position, might have been decided by a wider margin, yet that would have obscured much intelligent play by a hard-pressed Tottenham team, which was missing the services of Mabbutt, Anderton and Armstrong. Indeed, the visitors might have scored first and had two desperate near-misses after the second goal arrived 12 minutes into the second half.

For a quarter of an hour at the start, so swift, fluid and accurate was Manchester's passing, the ball flowing between Beckham, Cantona and Butt to Giggs on one flank or Poborsky, that bounding little pinball, on the other, that Totter-



Solskjaer prepares to take on Campbell, the Tottenham defender, before scoring his spectacular opening goal for Manchester United at Old Trafford yesterday

ham were playing hunt-the-thimble. Whenever they thought they had found the ball, in an instant it had exasperatingly disappeared again. Yet Walker's competence in goal and some last-ditch tackling by Campbell, Calderwood and Wilson served to keep the opposition at arms' length. When, after 20 minutes, Poborsky skated round Wilson, came in along the byline towards the post and rolled the ball back into the path of Giggs, the local hero lofted the ball high and wide.

For the second half, Ferguson replaced Giggs, suffering from an ankle injury, with Cruyff. As they had at the beginning of the first half, United began to run their opponents dizzy. After a move begun by Cruyff on the left and swinging right, a final diagonal low pass from Butt was met by Solskjaer, coming in wide of the left post, and the ball was driven low and hard into the only gap beyond Walker, just inside the right post. Another sick goal.

Manchester might have gone further ahead with a sharp drive by

Butt, deflected away by Walker, while Cruyff, with a nimble side-step, opened a gap for a shot that was also deflected clear.

Throughout the match, Gary Neville, never mind his international colours, had regularly found himself extended by the pace of Sinton and it was down the left that Tottenham's hopes for a revival lay. Nevertheless, it was not until six minutes from time that Sinton's long dribble opened the way for Sheringham, who was slow to respond and had his eventual shot

turned away for a corner by Schmeichel. Before the end, Walker had to save again from Butt. One of the contributors to a fine match had been Gary Willard, the referee, handling every indiscretion with an even hand.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1) P Schmeichel; G Neville, D May, G Pilkington, K Parker, G Beckham, R Wilson (sub: J Butt), R Beckham, R Giggs (sub: J Cruyff, 46) — E Cantona — O G Solskjaer.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) I Walker — S Carr, C Calderwood, S Campbell, C Wilson — R Fox (sub: R Redknapp, 70), D Hoddle (sub: J Edinburgh, 70), A Nelson, A Sinton — E Sheringham, R Allen
Referee: G Willard.



Dettori: seven up

Magnificent seven gives Dettori a perfect day

FRANKIE DETTORI'S feat of riding all seven winners at Ascot on Saturday — at accumulative odds of 25,095-1 — on one of the most keenly contested cards of the year was the greatest performance from the saddle ever seen.

PAGE 2

2.00 Wall Street (2-1 fav)
Dettori shows brilliant judgment of pace and a cool head in a tight finish to make off the running on the Godolphin-owned colt.

PAGE 2

2.35 Diffident (12-1)
Dettori shows split-second timing in a six-furlong sprint to win by a head, on a difficult ride, from the hot favourite, Lucyian Prince.

PAGE 2

3.20 Mark Of Esteem (100-30)
In big race of the day, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, Dettori daringly waits for a gap to gain a stunning victory.

PAGE 2

3.55 Decorated Hero (7-1)
Backed from morning odds of 14-1, Dettori has a difficult task under top weight in the day's big handicap, but wins comfortably.

PAGE 2

4.30 Fatafally (7-4 fav)
Dettori comes from off the pace to take up the running a furlong out in this valuable race. Once ahead, the filly stops concentrating and needs firm persuasion.

PAGE 2

5.00 Lochangel (5-4 jt-fav)
Lochangel looks inexperienced on only her second visit to the racecourse, but Dettori's confidence passes down the reins and she comes home an easy winner.

PAGE 2

5.35 Fujiyama Crest (2-1 fav)
By now, Fujiyama Crest, who would otherwise be five times the odds, is hot favourite. Dettori comes home with a magnificent display of front-running.

Julian Muscat, page 33

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IN BRIEF

Zulle leads Swiss to clean sweep in Spain

ALEX ZULLE won the Tour of Spain cycle race yesterday, from Laurent Dufaux and Tony Rominger, his Swiss compatriots. Zulle took a lead of more than six minutes into the 22nd and final stage — a 10-mile leg that started and ended in Madrid and was won by Tom Steels, of Belgium.

Zulle's task had been made easier when Miguel Indurain, the five-times winner of the Tour de France, dropped out after being left behind in the mountains for two days in succession. It was a first Tour of Spain victory for Zulle, who captured the overall lead when the race had barely reached halfway.

Sampras at ease

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the world No 1, cruised to his seventh tournament win of the season with a straight-set victory over Hendrik Dreesmann, of Germany, at the Swiss indoor championship in Basle yesterday. Sampras won 7-5, 6-2, 6-0 to capture his 43rd career title and kept his record intact of having won all the finals in which he has appeared this year.

Kenyan one-two

Athletics: Kenyan domination of British road running continued when Christopher Kelong and Raphael Njiku staged a sprint finish along Princes Street in the Bupa Great Caledonian 10-kilometre race in Edinburgh yesterday. Kelong was just given the verdict, though they shared the winning time of 29min 11sec.

Icy silence

Ice hockey: Ian Cooper scored the only goal as Cardiff Devils beat Nottingham Panthers 1-0 in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final first leg on Saturday. It was the lowest scoring game in Great Britain since Ayr Raiders and Edinburgh Royals drew 0-0 in 1953.

Manly effort

Rugby league: Manly Warringah won their sixth Australian championship and first since 1987 in beating Sydney St George 20-8 in the Sydney Grand Final yesterday. Six of the side have been named in the Australia team to meet Papua next Sunday.

Jackson decisive

Hockey: A goal by Chris Jackson 13 minutes from time gave Ireland a 2-1 victory over Scotland in their opening match of the men's World Cup preliminary round in Cagliari, Sardinia, yesterday.

Golf Breaks at Marriott St. Pierre

As taken by the world's top women golfers

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Presenting a bad evening with Gary Lineker

TV ACTION REPLAY

Mei Webb on the front man of BBC football who is all over the box on Saturday but who rarely hits the target nowadays

Saturday started well for BBC Sport. They sent Sue Barker to Ascot to interview Frankie Dettori for *Grandstand* and he obliged by being charming, and nice, and ordinary, then proved that he is far from ordinary, if still charming and nice, by winning all seven races. Rumour has it that Ray Harford has invited Barker to come and have a chat with him before Blackburn's next game. Goodness knows, he needs something.

In any case, there are many fates worse than being grilled by Barker, who, for a former tennis player, has turned herself into a pretty decent television broadcaster. She is lively, articulate and obviously at home with the medium. Everything, in fact, that Gary Lineker isn't.

Least what follows be misinterpreted, let it be stated at once that one has nothing but admiration for Lineker as a

human being and a sportsman. He is a bringer of glad tidings to the world and was a truly remarkable footballer. If only he was a truly remarkable practitioner in the visual arts. Sadly, he is not. Even more sadly, he needs to improve to be mediocre.

Lineker popped up three times on Saturday, once as the presenter in the Beeb's *Football Focus* in *Grandstand*, later as the master of ceremonies in *Match of the Day* and, immediately that was over, as a team captain in *They Think It's All Over*. He is a clown. In his other role, he is serious. Seriously dreadful.

His performance on Saturday left one yearning for the unutterably wonderful Desmond Lynam.

Lynam makes you believe that you are the only one he is talking to. Lineker leaves you with the inescapable feeling that you are the only one who is listening.

Agreed, it is a little unfair to compare Lynam with Lineker.

One is an acknowledged master, the other a very raw pupil. Lynam could make his viewer comfortable if watching an action replay of the sinking of the *Titanic*. Lineker, on the other hand, makes Southampton scoring four goals seem like nothing very remarkable at all. Which, as we all know, it is.

To give him his due, he is not always helped by all those around him, especially when presenting *Match of the Day*. The format of this programme, although cast from stone hewn somewhere in the Middle Ages, still works to a large extent, in that it distils

much of the dross out of British football and provides the sporting equivalents of soundbites — goalies, if you like. There were 15 of them in the latest edition. Alan Hansen, one of Lineker's henchmen on Saturday, is an exception, along with the aforesaid Barker, who proves the rule that successful sports people do not necessarily make successful broadcasters.

You only have to watch Andrew Castle, who was once a moderate British tennis player, groping his way helplessly through the maze of PGA European Tour golf on Sky Sports to see the proof of that.

Hansen is a man who is comfortable with television, and is undeniably an expert. If only he would open his mouth a little more, but that is to cavil on behalf of the hard of hearing. Would that Trevor Brooking were as accomplished.

Brooking has one thing

going for him and one against. In his favour is his great wisdom, and nobody should discount that. Against him is the fact that he never completes a sentence.

Brooking's dissertation contains fewer full stops, or any other punctuation marks, with the possible exception of the semi-colon, than do those of my revered colleague Bernard Levin. It is a stream of consciousness extended to the ultimate degree. Stream of unconsciousness, more like. It is grammatical genocide, socio-babble.

That said, *Match of the Day* is a programme of which the BBC should still, by and large, be proud. It is skilfully shot, expertly edited and immaculately produced, and in many ways knocks spots off its rivals.

In the end, it all comes down to the "L" factor. When Lynam's there, it's terrific, when Lineker takes his place, it isn't.

And then some. Sorry, Gary.

ALISPORT

GOLF

Johansson lands knockout blow in birdie barrage

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

PER-ULRIK JOHANSSON

erased memories of a previously dismal season in Europe when he took the Snurfit European Open at the K Club yesterday. The £125,000 the Swede won went some way towards making amends for his poor golf between January and September on his home continent. Though he played well to finish eighth in the US PGA, his best performance previously in Europe had been fourth at the English Open at the beginning of June.

Johansson won his third title in Europe in some style, a last round of 70 for a 72-hole total of 277, 11 under par, being less significant than the fact that, on another wet and windy day, he played the last six holes with great courage and resolve. Three birdies in this stretch took Johansson from one behind Costantino Rocca, who was leading, to level with the Italian and finally to victory by one stroke.

It was clear on such a tough course and in such weather conditions that a strong wind was vital. Bernhard Langer, a man of iron will, won here last year. Johansson has one of the strongest minds on tour and so there was some justice in his victory. "It's tough, this sport," he said. "Sometimes you feel you want to go home and do something else but you must not give up. If you give up easily, perhaps you shouldn't be in it."

But whereas Johansson squeezed three birdies from the last six holes, including one on the 17th, where he sank a ten-foot putt, and then another on the last, which he reached with a four-iron second shot, Rocca could manage only one. He came to the 18th needing a birdie four to tie with Johansson and made his task extremely difficult by hitting his drive into the rough. Rocca's 72 gave him a total of 278.

Roger Chapman produced a remarkable burst of figures, covering his last ten holes in six under par, to post a total of nine under par 35 minutes before Rocca and Paul Broadhurst were due to finish. No one would have quibbled if Chapman, one of the most popular players on tour, had

won. He has been a professional since 1981 and though he has had countless chances to win, has yet to do so.

"I am highly delighted with that," Chapman said before he disappeared into the clubhouse to wait and see whether his total could be beaten. He eventually had to settle for a share of third place and a cheque for £42,200.

Although Colin Montgomerie's closing round of 68 was one stroke more than that of Ian Woosnam, the Scot moved a further £2,000 ahead of the Welshman at the top of the order of merit.

Montgomerie led Woosnam by £141,547 at the start of the week and was assured of extending his lead when he finished three under par to Woosnam's one under. It was another workmanlike week for Montgomerie, who edged closer to equalising Peter Oosterhuis's four successive victories in the order of merit.

He flew home halfway through a schedule of ten successive events satisfied, if tired. "I've gained on Ian in each of the last four weeks — Switzerland, the Lancôme, Loch Lomond and now here," Europe's No 1 said. "His 67 was a good score but I have widened the gap."

Now the scene shifts to Berlin where both of them are competing in this week's German Masters. At least, Woosnam probably is. He was complaining of his sore back last week and had treatment in the fitness caravan most mornings. "If my back is half decent, I'll be there," Woosnam said. "I haven't said I won't be there. I have said I might not be there."

One who definitely won't be there is Robert Allenby, the man behind Montgomerie and Woosnam in the order of merit. Having strained ligaments in his left ankle getting into a courtesy car after the event at Loch Lomond last Sunday, the Australian flew to Spain to recuperate, only to be involved in a car accident on Saturday morning. He fractured his sternum and suffered facial injuries. His 1996 season on this continent is over.

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Rocca contemplates the prospect of the title eluding him during the final round

Morley reigns in Germany

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOANNE MORLEY, of

Great Britain, left the field trailing as she battled through wind and rain to a maiden Tour victory in the German Open in Hamburg yesterday.

She shot a closing 68 for an 11-under-par 281 over the Marriott Hotel Teufelsberg course, to finish four strokes clear of Maria Hjorth, of Sweden, and Lisa Hackney, the Welsh Open champion, one stroke further behind.

"I have never played better in weather like this," said Morley, who made her debut in the Solheim Cup match a

little over a week ago. The Briton had been two strokes behind the lead when she started the final round, but was never caught after opening with a hat-trick of birdies.

Barday Howard, Jody Panagan, Graham Rankin and Gary Wolstenholme — who were all in the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team that beat the United States at Royal Porthcawl last September — are again in the squad from which the team to defend the trophy at Quaker Ridge, New York, next August, will be named.

Michael Brooks and Keith Nolan have been selected, together with Howard and Wolstenholme, to play for Great Britain and Ireland in the world amateur team championship which begins in the Philippines in November.

SCOTTISH: M Morley (Eng), W Bond (Eng), M Brooks (Eng), K Nolan (Eng), N Edwards (Wales), J Parrott (Wales), P Ferlito (Scotland), A Parrott (Scotland), B Cookson (Scotland), C Lawrie (Scotland), G Newlands, S Mackenzie (West Lothian), K Nolan (Bally), D Park (Bally), G Taylor (Bally), G Spring (Tralee), T Taylor (Bally), G Spring (Tralee), R Wiggin (Pembroke), G Wolstenholme (Bristol & Cheltenham), S Young (Inveraray).

Scores, page 37

SNOOKER

Ebdon on top as McManus falters

BY PHIL YATES

PETER EBDON, runner-up to Stephen Hendry in the Regal Scottish Masters 12 months ago, looked eminently capable of winning this year's tournament when he rallied to lead Alan McManus 4-3 in their best-of-17-frame final at Motherwell yesterday.

Ebdon, whose powers of recovery are renowned, trailed 3-1 before reeling off the closing three frames of the afternoon session. He was left requiring five in order to capture the fourth title of his career and a first prize of £60,000.

Repeated muttering under-cipherable oaths to himself, and shaking his head after every errant shot, McManus was ill at ease from the outset. He edged 2-1 ahead by taking a couple of scrappy frames but was extremely fortunate to extend this advantage to 3-1.

McManus, who possessed a far from impressive success rate when he figures in the closing stages of the leading event, found himself 4-2 adrift in the fourth frame when Ebdon missed a tricky red. He cleared to the pink with a run of 53, but only after fluking the second red of the break into a baulk pocket.

"I think it's a combination of the fear of losing, allied to a keen desire to win, that helps me focus so strongly when I fall behind," Ebdon said, after his comeback from two down with three to play for an unlikely 6-5 semi-final victory over John Higgins on Saturday.

Ebdon dominated the next two frames. In fact, while he put together well-crafted contributions of 55 and 39,

DETAILS

FINAL: P Ebdon (Eng) leads A McManus (Scot) 4-3. Frame scores: (Ebdon first) 42-65, 97-22, 28-68, 43-78, 78-0, 72-49. SEMI-FINALS: Ebdon b1 Higgins (Scot) 6-5, McManus b1 Parrott (Eng) 6-5.

McManus did not pot a single ball.

Ebdon jawed two straightforward reds in the seventh frame but, with McManus continuing to struggle, those mistakes went unpunished and he eventually moved ahead for the first time at 4-3 by clearing from yellow to brown. It was Ebdon's momentum, and McManus's apparent lack of composure that suggested that the Wellingborough-based Londoner was well placed to prevent a fourth Scottish triumph since the competition began in 1989.

Nerves affected the outcome of both semi-finals. Higgins, desperate for victory in front of so many family and friends, crumbled badly; McManus, weighed down by a similar burden of expectation, almost suffered an identical fate before beating John Parrott 6-5.

It is the third time this year that Higgins has succumbed to pressure. He lost 9-8 to Nigel Bond in the final of the British Open five months ago after being 69 points ahead with only 67 available in the deciding frame, and 13-12 to Ronnie O'Sullivan in the quarter-finals of the Embassy World Championship after missing a pink when on the threshold of a 13-11 win.

Higgins, 21, was devastated by his latest setback. "I had him ten times and I couldn't put him away," Higgins, who has beaten Ebdon only once in six meetings, said.

HOCKEY: COMFORTABLE VICTORY FOR MEN'S CHAMPIONS AS TROJANS GO DOWN FIGHTING

Slough make the most of golden opportunity

BY ALIX RAMSAY

SLOUGH, winners of four national league titles, are seldom slow to capitalise on their chances but not even they could believe their luck yesterday when they were presented with a golden opportunity to take charge at the top of the premier division.

The former champions were playing Trojans, newly promoted from division one, while Slough's nearest rivals, Highworth and Ipswich

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE

The world's toughest yacht race - round the world against winds and tides. All crews are volunteers funding their own berths

HOW THE FLEET LINES UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

Commercial Union Assurance	Concert	Courtaulds International	Global Teamwork	Group 4	Heath Insured II	Motorola
Skipper: Richard Morreller	Skipper: Chris Tibbs	Skipper: Boris Webber	Skipper: Mervyn Owen	Skipper: Mike Golding	Skipper: Adrian Donovan	Skipper: Mark Lodge

THE RACE TIMETABLE

1996 RACE LEGS

- LEG 1: Start Sept 29; Southampton to Rio de Janeiro, 5,000 miles (expected Oct 29)
- LEG 2: Start Nov 20; Rio de Janeiro to Wellington, 6,500 miles (expected Dec 30)

1997 RACE LEGS

- LEG 3: Start Feb 9; Wellington to Sydney, 1,200 miles (expected Feb 15)
- LEG 4: Start Mar 2; Sydney to Cape Town, 5,200 miles (expected Apr 8)
- LEG 5: Start May 4; Cape Town to Boston, 7,000 miles (expected Jun 12)
- LEG 6: Start Jun 29; Boston to Southampton, 3,000 miles (expected Jul 15)

THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE ROUTE

THE BOATS

Skipper and crew: 10
Rig: Bermudan Cutter
Length overall: 67 ft
Beam: 17 ft 3 in
Displacement: 23 tonnes
Sail area: 1,925 sq m
Fuel: 1,100 litres
Water: 1,900 litres
Engine: Perkins Sabre 130hp

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Each boat carries:
Two dambos
Two horseshoe lifebelts
Two McMurdo lights
A personal EPIRB (automatic radio beacon) for each crew member

FACTS

Rope used	50 kilometres
Wire used in the rigging	64 kilometres
Cloth for sails	46,500 square metres
Paint for hulls	37,500 litres
Diesel (mainly for charging)	140,000 litres

SAILING: GROUP 4 SETS EARLY PACE IN ROUND-THE-WORLD CHALLENGE

New adventurers head off into stormy waters

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE 14 BT Global Challenge crews got what they paid for yesterday as they crashed and pounded their way across the start line in a howling gale on the Solent. Going to windward, the seas spume and spray high over the bows of the 67ft David Thomas-designed cutters, outbound for Rio de Janeiro, a passage of just over 5,000 miles.

It was a dramatic and impressive sight as the fleet finally came under orders off Gillicker Point, where the Princess Royal started them just after midday, in the midst of a spectator fleet of hundreds of boats of all shapes and sizes under grey and wet skies.

As the Challenge yachts ground their way westwards down the Solent, the west-going ebb tide gradually kicked in, making for a big swell against the south-westerly gale, gusting to over 50 knots. For the amateur crews, this was a moment to relish and an experience many have dreamt of for months.

On each boat, they were all — bar the bowmen and helmsman — sitting on the rail, getting a thorough soaking and lapping up the attention. As *Ocean Rover* — with the skipper, Paul Bennett, at the wheel, and *The Times'* own sponsored crew, Jim Capstick, up on the bow — bounded and plunged her way past Osborne Bay, relatives and supporters on a motor launch burst into cheers and whistles. The crew responded with cheers of their own.

The start was one of the trickiest parts of the 29,000-mile marathon that takes the fleet around the world against the prevailing winds in a voyage that finishes back in Southampton in July next

year, with five stopovers on the way. For the skippers, it was vital not to incur any damage in collision with any spectator craft.

Almost all chose two reefs in the mainsail and carried small yankee jibs and bright red storm staysails. The first over the line was *Global Teamwork*, skippered by Mervyn Owen, but he was too quick off

the mark and crossed ten seconds early. As a penalty — a very harsh one — Owen was later required to heave-to for an hour off the Needles Fairway buoy.

The race leader was thus the only South African skipper in the race, Boris Webber, on *Courtaulds*, who quickly got his yacht into the groove and seemed to benefit early on with a third reef in his main.

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Global Challenge

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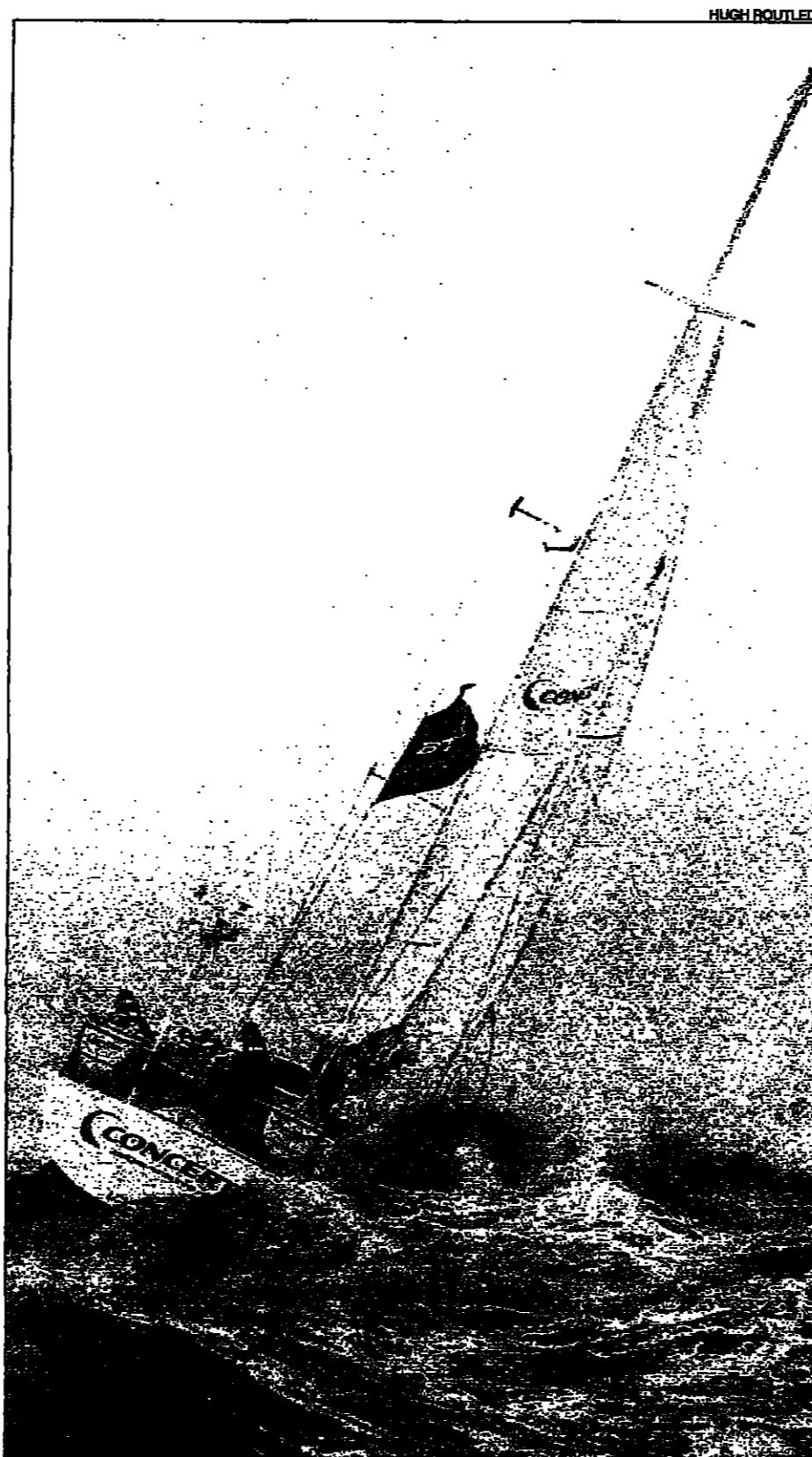
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Bennett at the helm

Positions, page 37



Concert rides the waves as the BT Global Challenge yachts struggle down the Solent

Getting a whiff of the tribulations ahead

By LUCY DUNCAN

FROM saying to everyone I met "oh, it's months until I go", suddenly the start of the BT Global Challenge is this weekend — and only a matter of hours away.

The pre-race week was hard work and far more hectic than I thought it would be. There were the inevitable pre-race parties but most of the time was spent getting the boat ready, loading up supplies and sorting out endless inventories of equipment. And that was before any of us sorted out our own personal crew kit.

Deciding what to take was less of a problem than I had

imagined. As a crew, we agreed a very specific list of equipment including just one tape and one book each. I compiled my tape during my last week at home indulging my fantasies that I had been invited onto *Desert Island Discs* (all this media contact has gone to my head).

It is an extremely catholic collection and, no doubt I'll never want to hear any of my favourite pieces of music again, once we get back to Southampton next July.

As well as humping piles of gear onto the boat, my last two days were filled with dismantling and reassembling all the boat's deck winches. In the company of

Phil, a fellow crew member, (an engineer in real life), we managed to put them all back together again and, much to our relief, not had any screws, nuts or cogs left over at the end.

I now carry around with me wherever I go the unmistakable smell of Gunl (grease-removing fluid used for cleaning the winches) and my fellow crew claim to be able to smell me before they can see me. I don't think Gunl will ever dreamt.

Three other crew members spent more than half the week packing five weeks' worth of food into carrier bags. This included individually bagging and precisely weighing

100-gram bags of peanut butter for each crew member as one of a variety of daily treats.

The general feeling from the crew was that everyone just wanted to go sailing. We had all had our pre-race pep talk from Chay Blyth, including a video of the last race. The emphasis of the video seemed to concentrate on how many people had returned home to unemployment last time — which seemed a strange choice. The rest of the session was fairly upbeat and the crew's enthusiasm remains undimmed.

As Sarah, our boat's medic, put it, "it's rather like being a medical student, the training

is so long that even though you know the job can be grueling at times, you can't wait to get on with it."

On the personal side, I seem to be going away having left most of my affairs in total chaos. I have just managed to rent my house and my long-suffering elder sister is going to sit at home wondering if everything is all right thousands of miles away in uninhabited weather, is quite another.

One of the great attractions of the next ten months is getting away from such hassles. In fact, my main administrative worry will be what to write in *The Times* for my next article.

By EDWARD GORMAN

was a doctor, makes no secret of his admiration for Lucy, who has taken leave from her job as a midwife to compete in the race. "My wife might have done it, but never me because I'm a physical coward," he said.

He added that, like any parent — especially one unfamiliar with sailing and the sea — he was worried about Lucy's safety, but this was tempered by his confidence both in Lucy and in the thorough way the race is organised.

"It's a very daunting thing she is taking on, but I have enormous confidence in her."

he said. "She's a team player and is used to being under stress and is used to having to help and do whatever has to be done," he said.

Duncan and his wife, who live at Steeple Aston, in Oxfordshire, are hoping to travel out to Cape Town to watch Lucy sail in for what will be the penultimate stopover. By that time they hope the worst of the race will be over. In the meantime, they will be following her progress through her reports for *The Times*. "We'll be reading her stories — it's going to be rather fun," he said.

Farewell tinged with anxiety

By EDWARD GORMAN

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FOOTBALL: LABOURED VICTORY OVER TEAM REDUCED TO NINE MEN REVEALS LACK OF IMAGINATION AND TACTICAL ACUMEN AT HIGBURY

Arsenal slow to use dismissals as credit cards

Arsenal 2
Sunderland 0

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

The players," Pat Rice, the Arsenal caretaker manager, said, "have been brilliant, absolutely brilliant, and hopefully they'll make Mr Wenger's life easier, too. He can sleep easily."

Had Arsenal's new, French manager, due to arrive this evening, been at Highbury to see Arsenal grind out their laborious win against a Sunderland team reduced for most of the match to nine men, he is more likely to have had nightmares, to have muttered in his sleep, "J'y suis, j'y reste."

By virtue of that being the word, of this shabby success, Arsenal moved into second place. It reminded me of an old schoolmaster, an Alsatian like Wenger, who wrote on the report of a dull pupil who had attained second place: "In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. This accounts for his position as vice-chancellor."

Midway through the first half, Sunderland, who had been playing much the crisper football, had their left back, a

Scott, sent off for the second of two wild tackles on Dixon.

Peter Reid, his manager, inexplicably thought the tackle a "great" one and confronted the referee, Paul Danson, so aggressively that he himself was sent down the tunnel.

Reid, who is likely to face a misconduct charge from the Football Association, admitted: "It was very unprofessional and I do apologize for it, but it's an emotional game, and sometimes you do get carried away."

Worse was to follow when Sunderland's lone striker, Paul Stewart, was expelled, five minutes from half-time, for the second of two handling offences. Rice felt the referee could have contented himself with a warning word, and it is true that mere handball is as heinous as a foul tackle. But rules are rules; there are, on the field, no distinctions between yellow cards and, the climate being what it is, it is hard to see what else Danson could do.

After which, Arsenal's sadly unintelligent team made wretchedly heavy weather of their victory. Rice himself must take some of the blame. It took him until ludicrously late to appreciate that the best

way to negotiate a packed defence is to go round the back, using the wings.

"Let me tell you something," he said, "you could put eight monkeys there and it would be hard to break them down." Resisting the temptation to ask which were the monkeys, it is true that Rice eventually pushed Paul Merson out to the left wing and, later still, brought Ray Parlour onto the belated lead.

Parlour, with his second touch, blasted a tremendous shot past Colom for Arsenal's second goal. The pass came from another substitute, the young centre forward, Shaw. So did the left-wing cross from which John Hartson, after 72 minutes, headed Arsenal into

a belated lead.

Until Arsenal scored their first goal, and Reid daringly brought on a couple of strikers to give Arsenal a couple of frights in an attempt to "nick" a point, Sunderland packed their own half and booted either into touch or no man's land. Who could blame them? It was incumbent on Arsenal to use their brains and their numerical advantage. But the longer the siege went on, the more unimaginative they looked. Ian Wright did have a shot kicked off the line by Mehville in the first half, but was largely subdued.

Even David Dein, the hyperactive Arsenal vice-chairman, seems muted now, recalling the apocryphal words President Eisenhower addressed to the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles: "Don't just say something. Stand there!"

But what will Wenger say?

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman, S Bould, A Adams, M Keane — D Dean, Pires (sub: R Parlour, 87min), P Merson, D Platt, N Winterburn (sub: P Shaw, 71) — J Hartson, I Wright.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): A Colom — G Hall, A McCallion, L Johnson, M Scott — P Brereton (sub: M Bridges, 75), K Bell, S Agnew, A Paez (sub: D Kubicki, 27), M Gray (sub: C Russel, 82) — P Stewart.

Referee: P Danson.



Scott is dismissed by Danson. Stewart was to fall foul of the referee soon afterwards

Reid makes his point and gets his marching orders

Pass masters Everton put Wednesday in their place

Everton 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

By MARK HODKINSON

If a towel had been thrown from the Sheffield Wednesday bench, or had David Pleat gamboled on to the pitch waving a white handkerchief, no one would have been surprised.

Everton, quite simply, ravaged Wednesday and it was barely an understatement when Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said: "It could have been ten."

Without their beacon, Duncan Ferguson, Everton were bullied into the passing game and it suited them splendidly. The ball was married to the turf and the fluency of their play was almost joyous at times.

Michael Branch wriggled past Walker on six minutes but fell to the ground as the defender closed in. A penalty was awarded; a decision Royle later conceded was "shady". Unsworth rammed the kick against the bar, but the disappointment did not trouble Everton.

Wednesday, in their fluorescent orange kit, were as stationary as traffic cones and, without the injured Collins and Pemberton, their midfield had neither enterprise or intent.

Joe Parkinson fed Kanchelskis and the winger obliged with his trademark run and finish. Shoulders rolling, right instep flashing like a sabre, he swashbuckled

through Wednesday's defence before placing it beyond Pressman. Kanchelskis has little peripheral vision, and his next move is rarely a surprise, but at full pace he is as elusive as a ghost.

The goal signalled a cascade of chances for Everton. Kanchelskis, Speed and Branch compelling Pressman to make a series of saves. Andy Booth might have equalised but was pulled back by Unsworth as he approached Southall. Unsworth was rightly booked and a more taunting referee than Paul Acock might have sent him off.

The anticipated banquet of goals did not arrive, but the second and final one was of a rare value.

Michael Branch outwitted Stefanovic, tore to the by-line and crossed for Stuart to prod home with aplomb.



Kanchelskis inspired

It was a fitting cameo of Branch's overall performance. On only his second full appearance, and at just 17, he showed heartwarming potential. He is impudent, linear, and his style of play uncannily similar to a certain Robbie Fowler from across the other side of Stanley Park.

Pleat, the Wednesday manager, was typically frank afterwards. "We got lucky today, end of story," he said. "My goalkeeper gave a class display and can hold his head up, but from full back upwards, Everton were better in all aspects. They had two sharp players up front. I think Branch was excellent. In time he is going to be a very, very good player."

Royle revealed that Branch will be chaperoned into his professional career. "We will look after him and make sure he doesn't get burnt out. He is very tired back there in the dressing-room, but he can be pleased with himself. We have known about Michael Branch for some time and we intend to pitch him in and out of the first team at the right time," Royle said.

On an afternoon when Everton's football had been commendably sick, Royle could not resist a pinch of sarcasm. "Who was it who said we were one-dimensional?" he asked. The press room fell silent.

EVERTON (4-3-3): R Southall — E Barrett, C Short, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe — J Parkinson, J Stewart, G Speed — A Kanchelskis, M Branch, G Stewart.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, D Walker, D Stefanovic, I Nielsen — G Whittingham (sub: M Williams, 70min), O Trustfull, S Nicol (sub: G Hyde, 48), R Blakie — D Hart (sub: P Humphreys, 49), A Booth.

Referee: P Acock.

Kelly seeks Brighton solution

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION appear before the Football Association today in a bid to solve the bitter takeover dispute which is threatening to destroy the Goldstone Ground club.

Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, will chair a meeting between Bill Archer, the Brighton chairman, and Dick Knight, a local businessman, who has formed a consortium to take over the troubled third division club.

The meeting at a hotel in Lancaster Gate, near FA headquarters, will also be attended by council leaders from Brighton and Hove, and the club's chief executive, David Bellotti.

Kelly called the meeting amid fears that Brighton will fold when they are forced to leave the Goldstone in May next year after selling the ground to developers.

The club has failed to find a site on which to build a replacement stadium and the Football League has lodged official objections to their plans to ground-sharing with Portsmouth at Fratton Park.

George Weah scored two goals and Roberto Baggio, a second-half substitute, added a third as AC Milan beat Perugia 3-0 in Italy's Serie A yesterday.

Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper, made a winning start to his new career as coach of Zimbabwe yesterday when his team beat Tanzania 1-0 in an international match in Harare.

The pick of Wimbledon's defenders under the aerial bombardment was Chris Perry, known as "Rash" — apparently he has a tendency to get all over his opponents —

Wimbledon take cultured path to reach dizzy heights

Derby County 0
Wimbledon 2

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

WELCOME to reality. Derby County, having taken points from Leeds, Tottenham and Manchester United, met their match in a side which looked the genuine article. Yes, Wimbledon.

Anyone who doubted them before this fifth successive victory in the FA Carling Premiership had only to glance at Saturday night's table, which showed Wimbledon in third place, or at this week's international squads, which include eight Wimbledon players.

Not, of course, that Joe Kinnear, their manager, was getting carried away, preferring to recite his usual litany: "We are a closely-knit club, we all stick together and work extremely hard. We'll keep our feet on the ground."

Wimbledon also keep the ball on the ground, despite accusations that they still favour route one. "It does Joe's head in," Vinnie Jones, his captain, said, "and then you watch what they [Derby] were trying to do today..." Kinnear referred only obliquely to Derby's tactics: "We had to withstand a certain amount of pressure, but most of it was long-ball, and we dealt with it," he said.

The pick of Wimbledon's defenders under the aerial bombardment was Chris Perry, known as "Rash" — apparently he has a tendency to get all over his opponents —

although at the Baseball Ground he usually got above and in front of them as well. "He is having an exceptional season," Kinnear said. "There aren't many better centre halves in the country."

Kinnear, of course, likes to talk up his players to increase their resale value, but in Perry's case the praise was completely justified. Although not the tallest of defenders, his spring-heeled leaps allowed him to reach most high balls, while his interceptions and tackles in goal had little to do with it.

While Derby tested the heading ability of Perry, McAllister and company, Jones and Robbie Earle controlled midfield with short, accurate passes and, for the most part, precise tackles. The crowd, needless to say, took exception to

the ground to do its best.

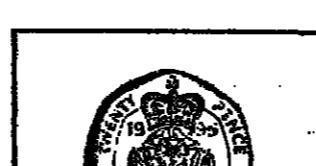
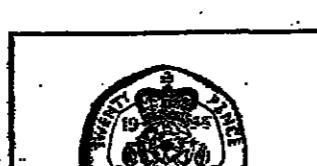
Tremendous," was Jones's verdict. "Neal Ardley's bit of skill was unbelievable." He added, jokingly: "I'm sure we've got Liverpool and Manchester United really worried now."

Derby, who missed their best chance when Gabbiadini put a free header over the bar from six yards, might not see the funny side.

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hoult — G Rowell (sub: L Cawley, 71min), I Stivens, M Carbon — J Cawley, A McAllister, N Dyer, D Earle, J Hart, D Powell (sub: R Simpson, 72), C Power — D Sturridge, A Ward.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, B McAllister, A Simola — D Earle, J Hart, D Powell (sub: R Simpson, 72), C Power — D Sturridge, A Ward.

Referee: A Wilks



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Alcohol _____

Drugs _____

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CHELSEA going down...
Sunderland staying there, except important fans were listening.
Leicester having points from having been relegated wide league, to great things, like the FA Cup, won their last, Martin O'Neill, who was the best player, pre-emptively new three and a half FA Carling Premiership tournaments will clearly align the teams, Road Body, Derby,

Yehuda,

FOOTBALL: HALLMARK GOAL FRUSTRATES WEST HAM AND RESTORES THREE-POINT LEAD AT TOP

Thomas keeps Liverpool out in front

West Ham United 1
Liverpool 2

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WITH a goal that is quintessentially Liverpool — team play, passing and moving, patience and precision — the Reds of Merseyside stay three points clear at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. Their hallmark goal, finished off by Michael Thomas, proved not only that Liverpool can play the continental game and draw opponents to them until they strike, but was a fitting reward for a team that, through injury, had lost its striking partnership and yet now has the resilience that was missing last season to go on and "grind out" results.

Be in no doubt: that second quality, tenacity, was required at Upton Park. For West Ham United, themselves in an early-season injury epidemic, came back from an early goal, equalised and, for nearly half an hour, took the tempo of the game from a team that would be champions, and ultimately only surrendered to that exquisite team goal.

"I would agree, our second goal was fantastic," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "It was the type of thing we are looking for."

The first goal came in the second minute when, after Thomas, from the centre circle, had hit a diagonal through ball, West Ham were caught flat and square. Stan Collymore, much criticised of late, shook off Marc Rieper as if he were flotsam. Indeed, it was Collymore at his best, muscular and hungry. He pushed the ball to Rieper's left, he powered through a half-hearted tackle on Rieper's right, and, from 15 yards, he shot low and true inside the far post.

Economy from Liverpool, naivety from the Hammers. Ludek Miklosko was like Bruce Willis at that moment — *The Last Man Standing*. But he, and his opposite number, David James, were to stretch athletically, right and left, as the game built up.

These days, of course, it is a game of imported talent. By their attitude to foreigners may we know them: Liverpool down-played the introduction of Patrik Berger, and look at the dividends. Harry Red-



James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, survives a determined West Ham assault on goal during the Premiership leaders' victory at Upton Park

knapp promises that Hugo Profirio, whom he has procured on loan from Sporting Lisbon, is a world-class talent. Well, Berger was not quite so special as McManaman this day and Profirio, just 23, produced flickers of hypnotic footwork without result.

After Collymore had to be led from the field with a knee injury, his goal by then a memory, Liverpool sought to use Berger as the foremost player. "Patrik told us he could play up front," Evans said. "He obviously tells lies occasionally."

In the second half it was McManaman, more willing if

no more accustomed, who took on the centre-forward role. And only towards the end did Evans believe McManaman by bringing on Lee Jones.

The absence of Mark Wright, with a depressed cheekbone fracture, took away Liverpool's authority in the air. Dominic Matteo, on the fringe of England honours and showing much elegance on the ground, cannot command the high ball. And so, with West Ham sending Slaven Bilic and Rieper up for every corner, with Hughes and Bowen galvanising the home team on the left, Liver-

pool were made to look vulnerable at head-height. In the fifteenth minute, for example, Bilic had the freedom of the six-yard box to equalise with a towering header from Hughes' corner.

Then, for nearly half an hour, West Ham closed Liverpool down with sharpness in midfield and, when Thomas gave the ball away, Cottee asked the first splendid save from James. Similarly, just as the second half began, Bishop demanded an even fierier deflection from the goalkeeper.

So it looked as though Liverpool might struggle to save the game. But, in the 53rd

minute, came their move *par excellence*. James rolled the ball to his defenders and then, in possibly 14 or 15 passes, too sweet and too numberable to count, Barnes and Matteo, McManaman and Redknapp ensured that no one in claret and blue could get a touch.

Finally, with the thrust of a rapier, McManaman delivered the final pass and Thomas, who had been the target for some despicable racial bigotry from the crowd, exacted revenge with an almost effortless, but again accurate, final stroke of the ball into the net.

Redknapp Sr spoke of his side betraying themselves, conceding two sloppy goals. That is his version. To the neutral observer, the second one bordered on greatness and, if finally his defenders came out hunting the ball, that was because, in the last resort, they were being toyed with in that move by men superior both in talent and tactical

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2) L Majosko — M Rieper, S Bilic, J Dicks — T Brescic, M Phillips, I Bishop, J Moncur, A Bowen (sub: H Pernar, S Stoenescu), J Dowie, A Cottee (sub: I Dumitrescu, 78). LIVERPOOL (3-4-2-1) D James — J Scales (sub: N Ruddick, 88), D Matteo, P Bishop, S Cottee, S McManaman, P Berger (sub: L Jones, 82) — S Collymore (sub: J Redknapp, 20). Referee: K Burga

Referee: K Burga

Final score: 1-2

Attendance: 32,000

Goalscorer: D James (1)

Yellow cards: S Collymore, P Berger, J Redknapp, S Cottee, D James, J Scales, M Rieper, S Bilic, J Dicks, T Brescic, M Phillips, I Bishop, J Moncur, A Bowen, H Pernar, S Stoenescu, J Dowie, A Cottee, I Dumitrescu, 78

Red card: None

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FOOTBALL: CELTIC PAY HEAVY PENALTY FOR REFEREE'S DECISION NOT TO PENALISE GOUGH'S CHALLENGE ON DI CANIO

Gascoigne underlines firm grasp of need for creativity

FOR the best footballers, creativity is a compulsion. In the last minute of the Old Firm match at Ibrox on Saturday, a header from John Hughes, of Celtic, that might have levelled the score struck the bar. At such moments, fight and relief muddle the mind and the ordinary player would have sought to expel the danger by blasting the ball clear. Paul Gascoigne does not have those orthodox instincts.

Taking possession in the Rangers penalty area, he saw only opportunities for a thrust on the left flank. The move found its outlet in Albertz and he lifted a cross over a weary defence to the fringes of Celtic's six-yard box. There was Gascoigne. Having covered 100 yards to complete the move he had initiated, the Englishman stretched, twisted and headed past Marshall to secure a 2-0 victory.

Injuries and his own immaturity have tarnished Gascoigne's career, but a trace of greatness is still visible. His superiority to the men around him is not just a matter of technique, of weight of pass and refinement of touch. It is intentions as much as skills that separate such a figure from the array of competent professionals.

For once in an Old Firm match, however, Rangers did not enjoy a monopoly of audacity. Celtic had, in Paolo Di Canio, an import who was stirred, rather than daunted, by the Glaswegian frenzy and

stimulated too by the peculiar difficulties his team faced. The side lacked both its normal forwards.

Jorge Cadete was merely injured but the absence of Pierre van Hooijdonk is a far more florid tale. A contractual dispute with the club has led to a series of disagreements. On Friday morning, the Dutchman, who is prone to fits of impatience, was unwilling to declare himself fit, after a minor injury, and asked for another 24 hours to make his decision. Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, believes his authority is being flouted and has now accused Van Hooijdonk of trying to evade the rules that govern the other players.

Concluding that his authority must be strengthened, even at the cost of weakening the side, Burns dropped the forward from the squad for Ibrox. Di Canio, whose excitability had previously suggested a self-indulgent temperament, treasured the extra responsibility that then lay with him.

The match might well have had a different outcome if the rules of the game had been properly applied in the tenth minute when

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

the Italian broke through.

Fumigated by Di Canio's footwork, Richard Gough floored him. There was no instant award of the penalty and some believe Willie Young, the referee, was giving the Celtic player the advantage. If so, it was a perverse decision. Di Canio, after all, was lying face down on the pitch and while he did try to scramble to his feet, he was forced to attempt a shot from a reclining position. Andy Goram blocked it.

Rangers, too, found cause to complain about an official in charge of his first Old Firm game, but his refusal to give Celtic a warranted penalty had the greatest ramifications. In addition to having an opportunity to take the lead, the visitors would also have been left facing ten men since Gough's offence, as the last defender, should have been punished with an ordering-off.

As it was, Celtic were to lose a player when Tosh McKinlay, in the 43rd minute, brought the club its eighth dismissal of the season. The full back collected his second yellow card after foolishly handling the ball in Rangers' half. Gough, on the other hand, re-

mained on the pitch and went on to score the opening goal.

When Celtic were not irate, they were exasperated. Even before Hughes hit the bar, Peter Grant had come close to the equaliser with a drive that bounced off the inside of a post and rolled along the goalline to safety. Burns's side have now failed to win any of the last seven Old Firm matches.

The differences in quality between the two teams was marginal on Saturday and the course of the game would have been radically altered by the slightest tweak to events. Rangers now hold a five-point lead in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, but the next meeting of the clubs is only five games away.

While the losers on Saturday will console themselves with the knowledge that chances remain to close the gap, there is now a trend that sees them take only regrets from crucial fixtures. Burns is badly in need of victory over Rangers on November 14, for his future with Celtic is being jeopardised by the string of narrow failures. An absence of luck remains the most common cause for the sacking of managers.

RANGERS (4-3-3): A Mann, R Gunn, J Robertson, G Moran (sub: J Ferguson), S Burns, S McColl, P Gascoigne, J Albertz, A Olsson — P Van Vossen, B Laudrup, C Bell, T Borel, J McInnes, B O'Neill (sub: B McLaughlin), 22, T McKinlay — P Di Canio, S Donnelly. Referee: W Young.



Laudrup, the Rangers winger, is sent crashing by the tackle of Hughes, the Celtic wing back

Jacobs goal worth the wait for Bradford

Port Vale 1
Bradford City 1

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT WAS a long time in coming, but at least it was worth the wait. Bradford City finally scored a goal away from home after close on 500 minutes of trying. It was enough to earn a point, their first away from home this season.

And a splendid goal it was. Wayne Jacobs, the Bradford full back, penetrated the Port Vale defence, where a host of forwards had failed before him, with a thunderous left-foot free kick from 30 yards that fairly exploded into the top of the net.

The visiting supporters broke into a spontaneous chorus of hallelujah when the goal finally arrived in the 83rd minute, and their players joined together to pose for a mock team photo, such was the relief.

It was well deserved, however, because the Yorkshire side had taken the initiative throughout the contest and had refused to resort to the stock fare of the Nationwide League first division — the long ball — even when all seemed lost.

In fact, both sides can take some credit for their approach on an afternoon more suited to a Gene Kelly movie. It wasn't so much singing in the rain, though, as slipping in it, the treacherous conditions making the determination of the players to attempt a passing game even more admirable.

Not that the credit is unreserved, because for the most part they failed to build on good intentions, rendering the match a sometimes grim spectacle.

There were some moments to at least drive the damp from the spirit. Steve Guppy made a lasting impression down Vale's left flank, and as early as the second minute he signalled his intent with a wicked cross that Gordon Cowans, the veteran midfield player, did well to divert past his own post.

Guppy combined well with Bogie to set up McCarthy soon after, but the weak effort was saved. The winger was not to be denied, however, and when Mohan made a pig's ear of an attempt at a back-pass in the 38th minute, Guppy raced around Nixon, the Bradford goalkeeper, to score.

Bradford's response was to throw on three forwards, and keep playing. The effect was muted at first, only Duxbury troubling the Vale goal with a sharp shot from the edge of the box that was well saved.

But the balance of the game was tipping slowly their way, and Jacobs's goal was reward for perseverance in such appalling conditions.

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BRADFORD CITY (5-3-2): E Nixon — P Lizard, N Mohan, M Bas, G Michel (sub: A Kwonryea, 46), W Jacobs — D Hamilton (sub: E Pegler, 49), G Cowans, I Duxbury — M Stalder (sub: C Shutt, 59), M Moore.

Referee: S Matheson.

Todd rues Bolton's failure to profit from dominance

Bolton Wanderers 1
Stoke City 1

By PETER BALL

WITH Phil Brown back, now standing gesticulating in the old Bruce Rioch position alongside the bench, rather than setting off along the touchline from right back, and the team at the top of the Nationwide League first division and playing some excellent football, it was like old times at Burnden Park on Saturday. Normal service resumed after one season above their station.

On Saturday, they dominated the game against one of their closest rivals. Only the result let them down. Graham Kavanagh, Stoke's skipper, a midfield player, snatching an equaliser in the closing moments. "We were 30 seconds away from winning," Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, reflected.

It has taken Bolton Wanderers commendably little time to recover from the disappointment of that Premiership year. Stubbs and Currie have gone, and Stubbs may be missed, but the arrival of Frandsen and Johansen means that the squad has suffered little, as the league table suggests, and the bank balance is healthier.

Frandsen was outstanding, winning the ball strongly and using it perceptively and accurately. Unlike Currie, he kept the Bolton attacks flowing with his passes rather than going off on individual sorties, and both Sellars and Thompson benefited.

Thompson has settled in central midfield with Sellars outside him. "I think I've improved a lot as a player," Thompson said. "I got stuck from the fans last season, and I wanted to show them I'm not a failure." He is doing that, his partnership with Frandsen working well.

The only things to mar Thompson's day was a yellow card for a tackle from behind — and the Stoke equaliser. "It was my third booking of the season," Thompson said ruefully. "I get a bit excited and go for the ball when it isn't mine."

For all Bolton's excellent football, though, they ended up with only one goal, scored by Blake when the otherwise solid Sigurdsson made his one mistake, and with only one point. They are already among the favourites for promotion, but missed chances could provide a warning of what may lie ahead.

"They created a lot of chances, but they didn't capitalise on them, and that was their downfall in the end," Kavanagh, the Stoke goalscorer, said. "I think we only had two shots and the third was a goal."

"We lost possession and one pass caused us a bit of a problem," Todd admitted. "It's a bit of a learning process." But with two internationals, Bolton's back four is not lacking experience — the relevant question is: can you teach old defenders new skills?

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergson, C Fairclough, G Richardson, B Gayle — J Stevenson, B McNamee, S Turner, I Hodson, L Brattinelli (sub: S Gough), 81, S Black, 81, F Flack.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (3-5-2): S Barrett — D Thomas, D Greenhalge, N Joseph, W Bell, P Winkett — A Richards, S McGlashan (sub: A Reilly, 46), S McGehee (sub: S Raynor, 84).

Referee: M Pearce.

STOKE CITY (4-4-2): A Thompson — A Blake, 22, S McGinn, 22, S Sellars (sub: D Taylor, 87), N Blake.

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Referee: G Stretton.

Rovers relishing return to roots

Bristol Rovers 2
Chesterfield 0

By PAT GIBSON

IT WILL never replace *Goodnight Irene* as the supporters' song but *There's No Place Like Home* might have been more appropriate as Bristol Rovers showed on Saturday that they are beginning to settle down in new surroundings after ten long years of exile at Twerton Park.

Rovers was outstanding, winning the ball strongly and using it perceptively and accurately. Unlike Currie, he kept the Bolton attacks flowing with his passes rather than going off on individual sorties, and both Sellars and Thompson benefited.

Thompson has settled in central midfield with Sellars outside him. "I think I've improved a lot as a player," Thompson said. "I got stuck from the fans last season, and I wanted to show them I'm not a failure." He is doing that, his partnership with Frandsen working well.

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a month with a view to a £250,000 transfer and he scored the two goals which ended Chesterfield's run of four successive away victories.

Perhaps it was the environment which knocked them out of their stride. The Memorial Ground does not look much like a soccer stadium at the moment because of work on a new £2 million stand. The pitch was bigger and the grass longer than they are used to.

Chesterfield might have

scored twice in the first two minutes but Rovers gradually wore them down and deservedly took the lead in the 58th minute when Cureton darted in between two defendes to score with a diving header. Ten minutes later,

Holloway, who is in his third spell with Rovers, was not the only Bristolian who was pleased to be back. Jamie Cureton supported Rovers as a boy but was given his chance by Norwich City. Holloway has now taken him on loan for

his pains.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A Collett — L Mann, B Clark, A Tilson, G Powis — A Gunn, I Holloway, J Skinner, L Archer (sub: M Lockwood, 18min) — J Curton, P Beadle.

CHESTERFIELD (4-3-3): B Mercer (sub: N Law, 73) — J Hewitt, M Williams, S Dyche, L Rogers — J Curtis, S Gaughan (sub: C Beaman, 45), J Jones, C Perkins, 70, J Howard, K Davies, A Lorner

Referee: D Orr

Cambridge begin new drive forward

Exeter City 0
Cambridge United 1

By DAVID POWELL

AS I left the ground, two Exeter City players were driving away in their cars. One was at the wheel of an F-reg, the other in a G. It was a reminder that the game of two halves — the halves and halves — is lengthening the pitch.

"The days of a Wimbledon have gone," Reg Smart, the Cambridge United chairman, said. "The gap is too big." Five seasons ago, Cambridge reached the second division play-offs, a chance to ride with the FA Premier League in its first season. They lost in the semi-finals and were relegated twice in three seasons.

While those who entered the 1992 semi-finals with Cambridge — Derby County, Blackburn Rovers and Leicester City — enjoy the benefit of Premiership membership, Cambridge, losing £1,000 a day, has advertised itself for sale.

"We are not going into liquidation tomorrow, it is not that dire," Smart said. In fact, he said, the club made a profit last year, but only by selling players. Selling the club might enable Cambridge to keep its best talent.

Guppy combined well with Bogie to set up McCarthy soon after, but the weak effort was saved. The winger was not to be denied, however, and when Mohan made a pig's ear of an attempt at a back-pass in the 38th minute, Guppy raced around Nixon, the Bradford goalkeeper, to score.

Bradford's response was to throw on three forwards, and keep playing. The effect was muted at first, only Duxbury troubling the Vale goal with a sharp shot from the edge of the box that was well saved.

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Dover Athletic 2
Aldershot Town 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

ALDERSHOT Town left Crabble on Saturday keenly aware of the work to be done to climb to the Vauxhall Conference after two masterly pieces of finishing by David L

RUGBY LEAGUE

Goulding's perfect six save the day for Britain

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE unbeaten Great Britain squad arrive in Fiji today for what should be the most straightforward leg of their Pacific tour. Nadi, the team's base, promises no let-up in temperature from Papua New Guinea. At least the opposition and atmosphere should be less intimidating.

There is a midweek fixture on Wednesday before Britain's international match next Saturday against Fiji, who were swamped 46-0 by England in the World Cup last year. The side will be looking for a far more comprehensive victory than the 32-30 defeat of Papua at Lae on Saturday, in which the lead changed hands five times.

In stifling conditions, Britain used a tank of oxygen and went through 26 substitutions under the unlimited interchange rule to see off a committed Papua side, that outscored the touring team six tries to five. The goalkicking of Elias Paito, the Kumul hooker, let them down. He missed three of eight attempts, whereas Bobbie Goulding struck a perfect six.

Phil Larder, the Britain coach, said: "The heat and humidity were unbelievable and in those conditions it's all about a test of character, guts and nerves. Bobbie had the

guts and character."

Goulding's performance, which included a try courtesy of testyman Harris, his solid half-back partner, was even more remarkable considering that he was a victim of the stomach bug that had infected the British camp in the days leading up to the game. Andrew Farrell, the captain, had been lined up as place-kicker, but Goulding rewarded Larder by his insistence that he should take the goal kicks.

Before a 10,000 crowd, smaller and more peaceful than that involved in a riot in which four people died a week before, Britain refused to be intimidated. The home side led at the break after tries by Stanley Gene, David Gomm and Adrian Lam, reviving memories of Goroka in 1990 and Britain's only defeat by Papua New Guinea.

The first of Kris Radlinski's two tries early in the second half restored Britain's lead following earlier touchdowns by Goulding and Cunningham, on his debut. Anthony Sullivan added another and the visitors narrowly resisted a stirring Papua fightback, including a second try by Bire and another by Sio.

ATHLETICS

Competitors' body given fair share of responsibility

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Athletic Federation (BAF), which has fumbled its handling of the baton too often lately, has accepted the offer of a steady influence. The BAF Council agreed in Birmingham at the weekend to let Great Britain's most prominent athletes have an equal say in the promotion and commercial development of the sport.

Roger Black, Britain's 400 metres Olympic silver medallist and one of the prime movers behind a new professional athletes' association, said yesterday that he felt "very pleased, very proud", when the council voted overwhelmingly, on Saturday, in favour of welcoming his organisation into the decision-making process.

The athletes' body, as yet unnamed but likely to be called the British Athletes' Association, will have its first board meeting on Wednesday. Geoff Parsons, the 1994 Commonwealth Games high jump bronze medal-winner, is to be its first full-time paid head. Parsons and Black created the body which, in its embryonic state, ten months ago, helped to change British Olympic selection policy.

The association will be part-funded by the BAF, £59,000 having been promised already. The benefits it will bring to BAF will be huge and it will be funded in other ways, for us to devise," Black said.

Lower attendances and

poor-quality meetings have embarrassed the federation this summer, and Black is in no doubt about the priority priorities. "Step No 1 is filling the stadiums, then everybody starts to get a better feeling," he said. "The important thing is that, for the first time, the people who determine whether spectators turn up — the athletes — are now involved."

According to Black, the athletes' body will have a 50-50 say with BAF over issues such as how to improve attendances and the number of

meetings promoted each summer. A board of, probably, 18 existing internationals will determine association policy.

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The association will be part-funded by the BAF, £59,000 having been promised already. The benefits it will bring to BAF will be huge and it will be funded in other ways, for us to devise," Black said.

Lower attendances and

does not expect to have a say is pay. Will not the athletes' new power allow them to pay themselves more? "No, I do not think the athletes should be allowed to be part of that decision," Black said. "That is not what this has been about."

"Everybody has been blaming everybody else. Empty stadiums. Is it that the athletes are not co-operative? Is it that the federation does not put on the meetings properly? Is it that the press do not write the right stories? Let us all accept part of the blame and work together. A year ago the athlete might have set up their own association and split the sport. Other sports have done that. We did not choose to do that."

As the last of the year's global titles were contested yesterday, Britain's final hope of a 1996 champion disappeared when Liz McColgan dropped out after nine miles of the half-marathon world championships in Palma, Majorca. It set the seal on a frustrating year.

Although Britain's athletes did not do badly at the Olympics, the world cross country championships or the world junior championships, they did not win anything. McColgan was seventh when forced out by injury. Xiujuan Ren, from China, won the women's title in 1hr 10min 39sec. Stefano Baldini, from Italy, took the men's in 1hr 01min 17sec.



Stylish Olympic champion Jeannie Longo, of France, went flat out in Stuttgart yesterday but failed in her attempt to break the women's one-hour record

FOOTBALL

England go out as Serra stands firm

By SARAH FORDE

Goulding: superb kicking

nerves and the rest showed the guts and character."

Goulding's performance, which included a try courtesy of testyman Harris, his solid half-back partner, was even more remarkable considering that he was a victim of the stomach bug that had infected the British camp in the days leading up to the game. Andrew Farrell, the captain, had been lined up as place-kicker, but Goulding rewarded Larder by his insistence that he should take the goal kicks.

For all England's dominance, they could not break down their combative opponents, who had four players booked for some bruising challenges. More worrying for Ted Copeland, the England coach, was the loss of Kelly Smith in the dying minutes. Smith, 17, who has illuminated England's ultimately unsuccessful qualifying campaign, went off on a stretcher.

At that stage, Spain had dealt with everything England could muster in attack — albeit with increasing desperation in the final quarter.

Spain took the lead in the fourth minute. The England defence had been redundant until that point and their lack of practice in dealing with the pace of Spain's front two was all too evident. Maria

Mar Prieto won the ball in a challenge with Kelly Few and picked out Yolanda Mateos, who cruised past Maureen Marley, her marker, before chipping over Pauline Cope, the England goalkeeper.

England had dominated the opening exchanges. Smith created their first chance within 90 seconds. Kerry Davis prodded her cross towards goal, but Rosa Serra was well positioned to collect.

For all England's pressure, their attempts at goal were either from long range or too weak to trouble Serra. The former Arsenal goalkeeper was penalised for taking too many steps early in the second half but, from the resultant free kick, she kept out Siwan Smith's fierce drive with a spectacular save.

Serra had been effective in nullifying England's raids until the 76th minute when Maria Harper, who had been on the pitch as a substitute for only one minute, looped a volley beyond the stranded goalkeeper. England then pressed forward in the final half but, from the last word in injury time when she tipped Gillian Coulthard's half-volley over for a corner, was all too evident. Maria

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RUGBY UNION

World Cup kicks off with beer match in Riga

If the 179th match in the World Cup, at a plush new Cardiff Arms Park on November 6, 1999, will decide who will be the champions of rugby into the next millennium, the first, at the rickety old University Stadium in Riga on Saturday, decided nothing more substantial than who would pay for the beer. A World Cup match maybe, but some ancient rites have to be preserved.

The post-match sing-song, executed in a babel of languages, from Latvian through Russian to Norwegian and Welsh, made up in giveto what it lacked in musicality. The end is three years away. Moldova and Croatia, the other members of the group, can wait. For the moment, the table in European qualifying group two (round A) puts Latvia atop the world (points for 44, points against 6) and if that and the biggest victory in the country's 36-year rugby history — was not an excuse for a night on the town, what was?

By the early hours, the old Baltic port was awash with the sorrows of the Norway team.

"A game like that makes you think," Roar Gjertson, the hooker, muttered into his beer. "It makes you think it is time to retire." Gjertson had felt every one of his 40 years that afternoon.

The Norwegians were over-powered up front and out-paced in the backs. "I have never been pushed around like that in my life," he added with a shake of his head.

Given that the Norwegians' preparations had begun and ended with a one-hour training session the previous afternoon, the lack of cohesion was hardly surprising. With their four clubs hopelessly dispersed and money tight, their hopes of victory were fuelled largely by a stirring call to arms from their Australian-born captain, Paul Kelly.

"Wear your colours with pride, mate," he told his players in the sauna-like dressing-room moments before Norway's World Cup debut. Eight Norwegians, two Englishmen, a Frenchman, an Australian, a Welshman, a Dutchman and a New Zealander agreed they would.

ANDREW LONGMORE



follows the first steps on the road to Cardiff

After all, it is not every day you get to play in the World Cup. Across the passageway, Uldis Bautis, the Latvia coach, was giving his team of eight Latvians and seven Russians their final instructions. The previous weekend, the league match between the country's top two sides, Latgale, predominantly Russian, and Ri-

then and the players were semi-professionals. Now, Bautis's part-time job as coach of Riga Miesnicks is paid for by an English-born butcher, who sponsors the team to the tune of £750 a month. Miesnicks is Latvian for "butchers".

Four of the country's five clubs are formed from the remains of the old RAF (Riga Automobile Factory) club, with players divided up like kids in the playground. The fifth is the Latvian Exiles, a hotchpotch of ex-pats, locals and passers-by.

Starved of funds, rugby survives on the Latvians' flair for combat and tenuous family tradition. The 1999 World Cup was barely ten minutes old when a crew-cut 17-year-old winger sneaked over in the corner for the first try of the competition, the first of Latvia's eight. Guntars Skukauska learnt his rugby from watching his father, Peter, play for Latvia in the Seventies, but he was as blissfully ignorant of the significance of the moment as he was of his own talent. What did he want with professional rugby, he said, when he had a five-year contract to tend the ground at his own club in Riga?

Not that rugby's new-found wealth will be much use to him anyway. One camera crew, two banners and a Spanish referee was the extent of international rugby's interest. Norway's assistant manager and a former Latvia player ran the lines. A crowd of barely 200 reflected the inadequacy of the advertising as much as rugby's minority status. Latvian television devoted 30 seconds to the match.

"It did not feel much like the World Cup," Sokolovs admitted. But then he was still furious at his scrum half for not giving him a chance to make history. "You know, I really wanted to score the first try in the World Cup," he said. "But my scrum half, he looked at me and then went the other way. I will have to deal with him later." I suggested that scoring the last try in the World Cup would be better and he laughed. It would only take 14 more matches. Then someone might take notice.

Bautis can remember the old days when his club, VEF, the works side of the giant electro-technical plant in Riga, had to travel 5,000 miles to play the champions, Krasnojarsk, in the Soviet league. The journey took two days and three refuelling stops. But travel was cheap

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The glistening black eyes of Demjans Zavadskis bore witness to the ferocity of the rivalry, an example of the hard-line nationalists in the parliament would have us believe of the unyielding bitterness between the two ethnic groups which make up the majority of Latvia's 2.7 million population. "No, no," Vilmaras Sokolovs, the Latvia lock, said, looking horrified at the thought. "The fight was not about politics, it was sport."

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The glowering black eyes of Demjans Zavadskis bore witness to the ferocity of the rivalry, an example of the hard-line nationalists in the parliament would have us believe of the unyielding bitterness between the two ethnic groups which make up the majority of Latvia's 2.7 million population. "No, no," Vilmaras Sokolovs, the Latvia lock, said, looking horrified at the thought. "The fight was not about politics, it was sport."

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Track record merits special reward

John Goodbody finds a deserving candidate for funding as a centre of sporting excellence

THE Government will today launch a scheme for specialist sports colleges aimed at improving facilities and raising standards in state schools. The partnership programme between sponsors and the Government, who between them will commit at least £200,000 in funding at each college, is designed to promote excellence at all levels.

Few schools in Britain are surely more deserving of achieving the distinction than Barking Abbey comprehensive in East London. The borough of Barking and Dagenham is designated as an area of sporting and social deprivation. Yet, here is an institute, with a



Jane Farrow, coach to the successful athletics squad at Barking Abbey comprehensive, puts students through their paces

mixed roll of 1,600, that desperately needs the financial backing to raise still further its distinguished pedigree in sport.

Barking Abbey were national schools under-16 football champions in 1994 and finalists in the TSB English Schools' Cups in both athletics and cross country in each of the past five years. Six of the school's present crop of pupils have obtained county honours at cricket. In individual sports, one boy, Glen Coppin, is the national cross-country champion and top of the under-13 rankings for both 800 and 1,500 metres, while Nikki Ladlow is a national age-group 200 metres butterfly champion.

However, the school's record in sport does not seem to have affected its recent academic results, with the pass rates at A star to C grades in GCSE having more than doubled over the past five years. The school's performance is now higher than the national average.

Tony Maxwell, the headteacher, said: "There is a danger in the eyes of the community, in seeking to

become a specialist sports school.

of being seen as pronouncing sport, sport, sport. However, pupils come here to learn and we do send 40 of them to university every year."

However, as a former English

1,500 metres international and

Cambridge athletics Blue, he is

convinced of the values of physical education and sport. "They have so much to offer, teaching self-confidence and being a member of a team and getting on well with the members of that team."

It is astonishing how well the school has done despite the absence of many modern facilities. Although there are a few grass pitches on site, an all-weather public athletics track five minutes'

walk away and a swimming pool reasonably close, the three gyms are too small even to stage a proper basketball game. They were built in 1932 and one has holes in the roof.

Initially, Barking Abbey needs

the money it would receive as a designated specialist sports college to use the available facilities more extensively than at present. This will include the provision of equipment and hiring the neighbouring athletics track for much longer periods. In the long term there are

plans for a £1.6 million indoor sports hall, for which lottery money this would bring in a further £160,000.

The scheme, which is being promoted by the Youth Sport Trust, is restricted to maintained secondary schools that are committed to the development of sport. The trust, which is looking for at least ten applicants by December 15 and a further 30 by 20 January 1998, will help schools to raise the sponsorship. It will also identify talented youngsters.

The school has to find £100,000 of sponsorship, which the Government will then match with an equal sum, plus a further £100 per pupil per year. In Barking Abbey's case, Barking Abbey provides it.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

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CRICKET: PAKISTAN FALL WELL SHORT OF DEMANDING VICTORY TARGET

Record stand sets up South Africa win



Rhodes: fleet-footed in his pursuit of century

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DARYLL CULLINAN and Jonty Rhodes shared a partnership of 232, a fourth-wicket record for one-day internationals, as South Africa beat Pakistan by 62 runs in the Kenya centenary four-nation tournament in Nairobi yesterday. Cullinan scored 124 and Rhodes 121 as South Africa recovered from 38 for three to post a daunting 321 for eight from their 50 overs.

Although Iqaz Ahmed contributed an enterprise 88 from only 61 balls, Pakistan never looked likely to mount a serious challenge and were dismissed for 259 with more than seven overs remaining.

Cullinan eventually hoisted himself to Salim Malik, having hit 12 fours from 117 balls, while

Ijaz, taking three for 29 in eight overs.

Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis quickly had South Africa in trouble after they had been put in to bat but proved powerless to curb Cullinan and Rhodes, whose partnership was marked by electrifying running between the wickets.

Rhodes was dropped when Ijaz at backward square-leg, but otherwise he and Cullinan were in complete control as both fielding and bowling became increasingly ragged.

Cullinan eventually hoisted

himself to Salim Malik, having hit 12 fours from 117 balls, while

Rhodes had hit 11 fours from 114 balls received when he was run out in the 47th over.

Rhodes then kept Pakistan on the back foot by running out Saeed Anwar with a direct hit from backward point in the first over. Anwar's opening partner, Saleem Elahi, hit 54 and shared a third-wicket stand of 67 with Ijaz, but once they were parted, Pakistan's hopes faded.

Mark Taylor, who is recovering from back surgery, and his Australian team set out yesterday on a six-week tour of India, which includes one Test match and a one-day series.

Scoreboard, page 37

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Christian Dymond on a sport associated with North of the Border which is set to gain Olympic status

Ice-cold skills in the roaring game

Stand on a Tube station and listen to a train coming from a quarter of a mile away. What you can hear is both London Underground at work and a sound akin to curling: 42lbs of granite in the shape of a round Dutch cheese gliding down a sheet of ice. Not for nothing is the sport known as the roaring game.

Long associated with Scotland, curling has nonetheless travelled the world. It is particularly big in Canada, is played in Japan and has come south to England and Wales.

In Scotland there are 648

clubs affiliated to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, whose object is "to unite curlers throughout the world into one brotherhood of the rink". In 1998 at the Winter Olympics in Japan, curling will become an official Olympic sport.

The new season has just started, so I went to the South of Scotland Ice Rink at Lockerbie, where 65 hours each week until April will be set aside for curling. People have brought their brushes, or brooms to strike the stone, but are not allowed to bring their own stones.

"It's because stones have to be as cold as the ice, which is minus two degrees centigrade. If warmer, they'll make a saucer shape in the ice and won't run properly," says veteran curler Sandy Smith. Anyway, stones are very expensive.

Three years ago the ice rink spent £28,000 on 80 stones for the club. Help came from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. The ones they replaced had been in use since 1967. They had been turned over to give them a longer life. The best granite for curling stones, I am told comes from Ailsa Craig, in the Firth of Clyde.

Curling generally involves two teams of four players, taking it in turns to slide the stone almost 40 metres down a sheet of ice towards the house. The sheet is lane, a minimum of 4.75 metres wide and the house is a series of concentric circles near the end of the rink.

Each member of the team has two stones to curl. A team scores one point for each stone finishing nearer the centre of the house, the button, than any belonging to their opponents. Once all 16 stones have been dispatched from one end, you swap ends. A game usually consists of ten "ends".

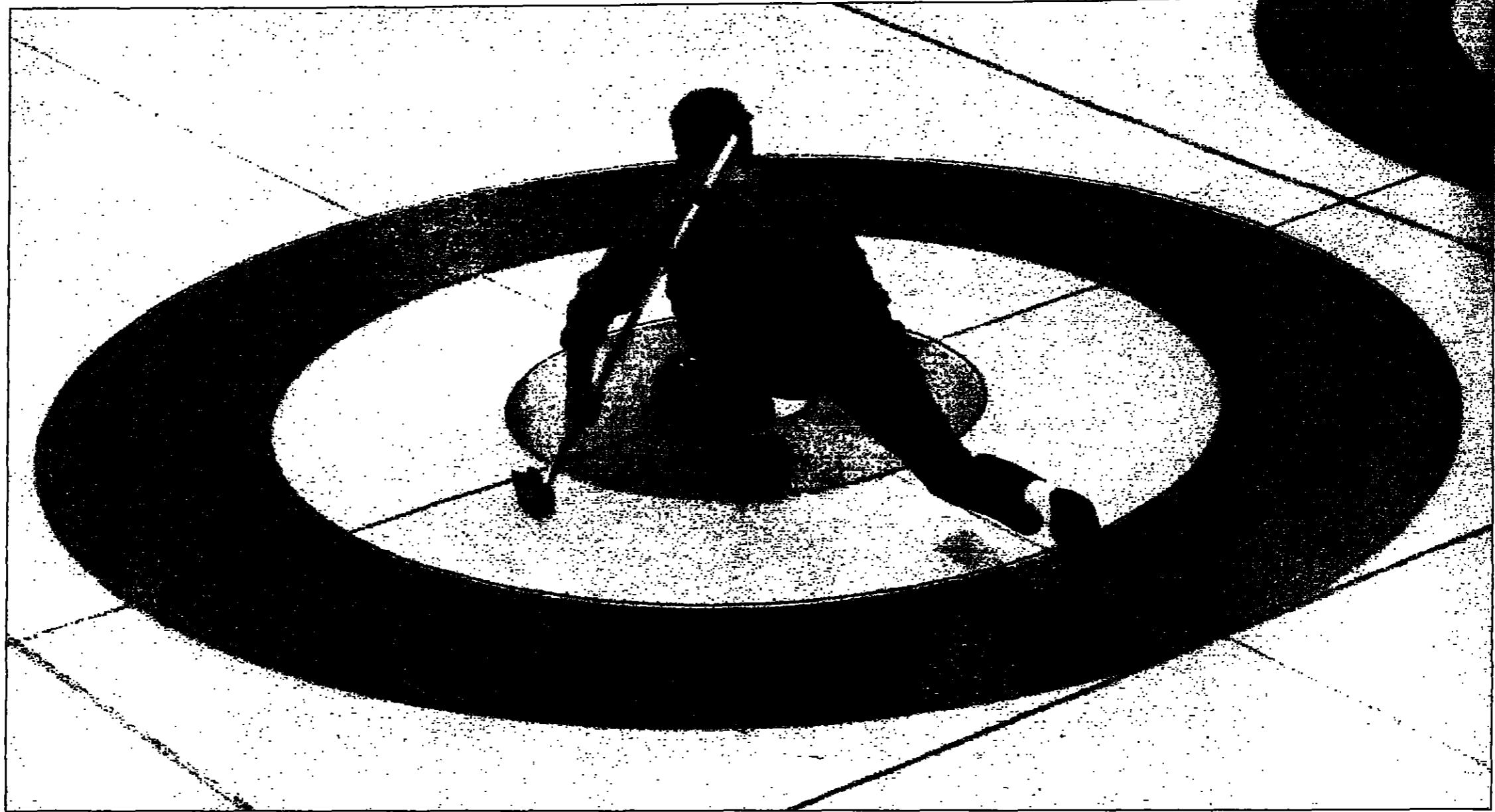
Of course opponents can knock your stone out of the way during a game, or slide one short to act as a guard. Then there is the added factor that the stone itself moves down the ice with a slight bias.

I ask why it cannot go straight. "Because it would be a pretty boring game if it did," says Liz Smith, a director of the 1,000-member ice rink club and a player for nearly 30 years. The appeal for her is the companionship and the competitive nature of the sport.

Despite the competitiveness, it is considered extremely bad manners if you don't shake the opposition's hands at the end of a game.

Every team has a skip. They are the ones who call the shot and at the start of each "end" will stand near the house and tell their team what to aim for. This is done both verbally and with signs made with the brush.

The first member of the team to deliver a stone is the lead, followed by the second from the other team. Skips from



The first day of the curling season gets under way at Lockerbie ice rink, with a player set to slide the stone. The game is rapidly gaining adherents all over the world and becomes an official Olympic sport in 1998

WHAT TO WEAR - WHAT IT COSTS

● YOU can wear your own clothes curling but close fitting trousers are not so favoured because of the actions involved in delivering the stone and polishing the ice. Curling trousers — something akin to tracksuit bottoms — cost about £30. Curlers often wear their own club jumpers.

● CURLING gloves — a bit like golfing gloves — can be worn (Prices £16 to £20) so you can grip the stone more comfortably and avoid blisters on the hand from polishing. They also keep your hands warm. Brushes cost from £30 to £50.

● SOME people wear a knee protector (about £4) on the knee that is touching the ice when they deliver the stone. Curling shoes go from £60 to £150. If you wear ordinary trainers and just want a slip-over sole for the one shoe (the left shoe if you are right handed and have the right foot in the heel), the price is £16 to £20. Clubs have curling stones at their rinks because of the need to keep them at the right temperature.



A player assesses the state of play during a match. Each of the granite stones moves down the ice with a slight bias



With play under way, team members polish the ice to make the stone go further

each side are often the last to go. Some players will no doubt have little quirks of delivery, but there seems a fairly uniform action.

If you are right-handed, take the stone by the handle in that hand, give a little polish to the bottom side to remove any dirt or hairs from brushes or even wool from jumpers, put your right foot in what looks like a starting block and with your left leg in a bending position, launch yourself forward.

The sole of the right shoe in this case has a grip, that of the left shoe is slightly slippery. Curling shoes can be expensive but you can use trainers with special soles.

Before you reach a line called the hog line you must have released the curling stone. Then, if the skip commands, the polishing starts. This is a feverish activity conducted with the brush just ahead of the stone by one or two of your colleagues.

The idea is to facilitate the stone's progress. It does not speed the stone up but it does make it travel further. When the skip says so the polishing stops. There is a useful adjunct to this activity. It means that the two players not directly engaged in either playing the stone or giving the

orders can still play a vital role.

At the end of the first game of the evening a man with a small water tank on his back and a sprayer in his hand comes on to the ice. Walking backwards, he sprays down the centre line of each of the five sheets.

The drops of water will freeze immediately and create thousands of tiny pimples or pebbles on the ice. It is these which the curling stone rides over. If the ice was completely flat you would need much more effort to play the stones," says Mr Smith.

Kenneth Edwards, 14, is in one of the second games of the evening. He's been curling for nearly six years and has about four games a week. His mother Margaret and brother David curl, too. Large numbers of youngsters are involved in the sport and those at Lockerbie have a better record than most.

Four of its junior boys represented Scotland and won the World Junior Curling Championship in 1993 in Switzerland. Two Lockerbie boys were also in the 1995 and 1996 teams which won the championship.

Like most other ice rinks,

Lockerbie has coaching facilities available for beginners.

Curlers start young. Those aged 8-12 use smaller stones and are known as mini-rockers. The term "old rocker", however, does not apply to those of more mature years.



A player follows the highly-expensive granite stone as it "roars" its way down the ice

MIKE POWELL

CH

FACT BOX

THE Royal Caledonian Curling Club is at Cairnie House, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 2NB. Tel: 0131-333 3003. The secretary is Duthie Thomson.

The South of Scotland Ice Rink is at Lockerbie Tel: 01576-202197.

The Multi Sponsorship Invitation Tournament is at the South of Scotland Ice Rink, from October 11 to 13. The Macallan European Playdowns are at The Summit Centre, Glasgow, October 17 to 20. Tel: 0141-204 2215.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Today's hand was played in the BBL Pairs in July. South misbid his hand, but West had to defend well to punish him.

Dealer South Love all Match-pointed pairs

♦642	♦QJ109
♦KJ103	♦6542
♦1076	♦A32
♦J42	♦53
♦753	♦AK8
♦A987	♦Q9
♦QJ9	♦K84
♦1097	♦AQK86

S W N E

1C Pass 1H Pass

2D Pass 3C Pass

3S Pass 4C Pass

4NT Pass 5C All Pass

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: five of spades

South made three poor bids. After the response of One Heart to his opening One Club, it was clear to rebid 3NT. If his partner insisted on going back to hearts, singleton queen would be at least as useful as a small doubleton. When North preferred to bid Three Clubs over South's Two Diamonds, about the weakest bid he could make, again South should have bid 3NT. His bid of Three Spades should be played as enquiring about his partner's spade holding for No-Trump purposes. As he held the suit strongly it was his duty to go 3NT. Finally 4 NT (Blackwood) by South was an overstatement: all North had done was sign off, so even if he had an ace there would still be too many holes to make Six Clubs a good contract.

South won the spade lead, drew two rounds of trumps and played the queen of hearts. If, as West, you knew what that declarer's only heart, what would you do? It is still correct to duck. If you take it, declarer makes two spade and three heart tricks, a diamond and five clubs. If you duck, declarer only gets one heart trick, and goes off (even if he overtakes with dummy's king and then plays the jack he will only make two heart tricks).

The declarer in 3 NT had an easier time. After a spade lead they could play the queen of hearts and overtake with the jack. That gave them two tricks in spades, two in hearts and five in clubs.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chess and sport

Recent statistics show that 124 governments around the world officially recognise tournament chess as a sport. A recent study by Dr Christian Hollinsky, in Vienna, who subjected chess players under tournament conditions to physical and psychometric tests, measuring heart rate, blood pressure, stress and so on indicates that chess players show greater signs of physical activity during a competition game than do competitors in many standard sports.

Dr Hollinsky's study demonstrated that chess players who were in good physical condition, even those of advanced age, are better able to withstand the physical pressures of tournament chess.

During a tournament game the heart rate of chess players is comparable to that of cyclists while adrenaline levels in chess can be even greater than those in both cycling and football.

Adams win

In the tenth round, England drew 2-2 with Armenia. Stuart Conquest lost his game but Michael Adams redressed the balance with this victory.

White: Rafael Vaganian

Black: Michael Adams

Erevan Olympiad, September 1996

English Opening

1 Nf3 Nf6

2 c4 b5

3 g3 c5

4 Bg2 Bb7

5 0-0 e5

6 Nc3 Be7

7 Re1 Ne4

8 O-O Nc3

9 dxc3 Qc7

10 Bf4 d6

11 Rad1 Nc6

12 Ng5 Bxg5

13 Bxg5 h8

14 Bc1 0-0

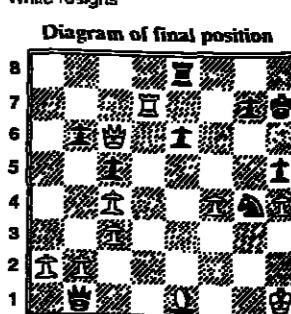


Diagram of final position

White resigns

White: Michael Adams

Black: Rafael Vaganian

White: Stuart Conquest

Black: Garry Kasparov

White: Anatoly Karpov

Black: Garry Kasparov



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Underdogs Mayo thwarted as Gaelic football's replayed final follows familiar script

Grand occasion to celebrate all Ireland

They told me that the windy weather would make it more physical than usual. Next thing, they will tell me that Guinness is more black than usual, as if you really could get a darker shade of pitch.

But when Mayo took on Meath in the replay of the All-Ireland football final in Dublin yesterday, it was always going to be one of life's more titanic afternoons. Gaelic football is not one of those disciplines that encourages a cold-blooded stand-offishness in its participants.

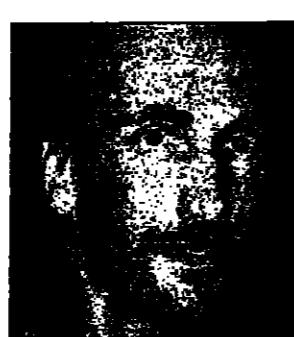
And after the first and drawn final of a fortnight back, there were a few scores to settle. Sure enough, most of them were settled within the first two minutes when the players set about each other with undisguised fervour. Perhaps 20 of the 30 players on the pitch got seriously stuck into each other. Old accounts were closed, and new ones opened. But two men went off and battle proper could be joined again.

Before I go any further, I must point out that the game is not a punch-up with a ball as occasional distraction. Gaelic football is about skill and courage. The prime discipline is keeping your eye on the ball, despite the murderous attentions of the opposition.

The game revolves around nerve and appetite under the high ball. Where a full back in both codes of rugby is thus tested half a dozen times in a match, so the players of Gaelic football are tested with almost every kick: for this is the very nub of the game.

It cannot help but be a fearsome and compelling spectacle'

SIMON BARNES



At Croke Park

Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was founded as a calculated affront to the British Empire. The formation and early history of the GAA is arguably the most striking instance of politics shaping sport in modern history; it is certainly the outstanding example of the appropriation of sport by nationalism in the history of the British Isles and empire."

So wrote Richard Holt in his classic of sporting history, *Sport and the British*.

This was so much the case that anyone who played other sports was banned from the GAA. Members of the Irish constabulary and of the Dublin police were automatically forbidden from taking part in all Gaelic sports.

The political dimension of the GAA is made clear in Joyce's *Ulysses* the saloon bar raconteur,

named as the Citizen, is based on Michael Cusack, a founding member of the GAA. Joyce describes this self-appointed epitome of all Ireland's most manly virtues: "Broad shouldered big chested strong limbed frank eyed red haired freckled shaggy bearded wide mouthed large nosed long headed deep voiced bare kneed brawny handed hairy legged ruddy faced sinewy armed hero."

Some sports spread all over the world, but not the Gaelic ones. The whole point of them was to keep them Irish. They are a celebration of both nation and nationalism.

C. L. R. James, the Trinidadian Marxist and cricket writer, is most often quoted for the line that is the cornerstone of his work: "What do they know of cricket, who only cricket know?" But no one involved in Gaelic sports would dream of thinking that sport could ever only



A Meath attack comes to nothing in the All-Ireland final replay against Mayo yesterday. Photograph: Tony Maxwell

be about sport. Thus, as we move to the 109th All-Ireland final, we find that this truth, like the game's physicality, is more true than usual. Gaelic sports are bigger than ever: recruitment is fertile and audiences, particularly television audiences, are growing.

The All-Ireland final is no living fossil: it is a vibrant occasion, with the brave sight of terraces crowned by banners held artfully by the sharpening wind. It was contested and roared on with contagious passion. It was an occasion that underlined the unique nature of the

sport and the universal nature of sporting archetypes.

For what we had was an underdog afternoon. One of sport's eternal verities is that if the underdog gets half a chance, he will better take it — because there will not be another. And Mayo had their chance in the first final, and they blew it. "They had prepared for everything except how to deal with a six-point lead," I was told.

Meath had the big guns; surely they would prevail this time. But no: Mayo soared into the lead, and began to control the match. And

then, of course, they blew it all over again. It was heart-rending stuff: a series of foolish individual mistakes and still more foolish collective decision-making undid them.

Naturally, I cheered for the underdog and, naturally, I felt the usual pleasurable pain. It is part of the common stuff of sport, after all.

If you have sporting blood in your veins, you cannot attend any of sport's grand occasions — and this was unquestionably one of them — without responding.

That is why the traditional English disdain of these sports

rather bothers me. You can make jokes about hurling being the only game in which competitors are armed with an unambiguous cudgel, but then the GAA itself always like to see the hurley as a weapon to drive out the British.

What it comes down to is the act of trivialising your enemy. When in doubt, make him ludicrous. To turn something into a joke is a kind of tribute of fear. But sporting blood does allow you to rise above such things. A grand occasion. I wonder if it is possible to get a drink around here?

Last-minute point by Rielly gives Meath title

Meath 2-0
Mayo 1-11

FROM MARTIN BREHENY
IN DUBLIN

A LAST-MINUTE point by Brendan Rielly earned Meath a dramatic victory over Mayo in the All-Ireland Senior Football Final replay in front of 65,802 spectators at Croke Park yesterday.

It was a heart-breaking end for Mayo, who were bidding to win the title for the first time since 1951. They led by six points two minutes before half-time but were worn down by a typical Meath revival, which brought them the crown for the first time since 1988.

In a high-tension encounter, marred by strong winds, both teams had a player sent off. The game was just eight minutes old when the Mayo midfielder, Liam McFale, and the Meath wing back, Colm Coyle, were dismissed after a brawl involving at least 20 players. Six others were booked.

Meath had first use of the wind and, with James Horan and Maurice Sheridan in excellent scoring form, they led by 0-5 to 0-2 after 30 minutes. Three minutes later, a substitute, P. J. Loftus, scored a great goal for Mayo, but a penalty by Trevor Giles brought Meath back into contention, with Mayo leading 1-6 to 1-2 at half-time.

Meath made a brisk opening to the second half, scoring three points in the first five minutes. Mayo responded with two points which put them three clear by the 47th minute. They worked hard to hold onto their advantage and were two points ahead entering the final ten minutes.

Then disaster struck for Mayo. Meath's Graham Geraghty was fouled, took a quick free and put his captain Tommy Dowd in for a goal which put Meath ahead by a point.

James Horan equalised six minutes from the end and, while both sides had good scoring chances, in the closing five minutes, the only player on target was Rielly.

SCORERS: MEATH: T. Glynn 1-4, T. Dowd 1-3, B. Rielly 1-0, P. Loftus 1-0, J. Horan 0-5, M. Sheridan 0-5, P. J. Loftus 1-0, J. Caslin 0-1.

MEATH: C. Martin, M. O'Reilly, D. Fay, M. O'Connell, C. McNamee, P. Reynolds, J. McGaughan, J. McDermott, T. Giles, T. Dowd, G. Geraghty, C. Brady, B. Rielly (sub: O. Murphy), B. Callaghan (sub: J. Dowd).

MAYO: J. Madden, K. Mortimer, K. Cahill, D. Flanagan (sub: P. Fallon), P. Holmes, J. Nallen, N. Connolly, L. McFale, D. Brady, J. Horan, C. McNamee, M. Sheridan, A. Finnerty (sub: T. Reilly), A. Conroy, R. Dempsey (sub: P. J. Loftus). Referee: P. McEnaney.

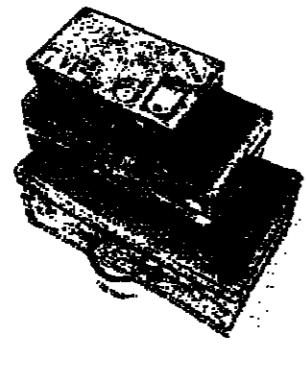
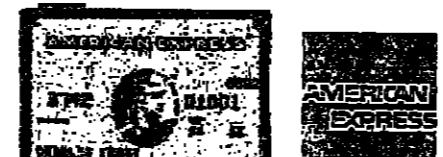
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متحدة من الأراضي

UK fails to fulfil EC duty in applying broadcasting controls

Commission of the European Communities (supported by French Republic intervenor) v United Kingdom Case C-222/94

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. N. Kakouris, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, G. F. Muncini, J. C. Molininho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Guilmann, J. L. Murray, P. Jann, H. Ragnemalm and L. Sévon Advocate General C. O. Lonza (Opinion April 30)

Judgment September 10

In applying, by the Broadcasting Act 1990, different regimes to domestic and non-domestic satellite television services, and exercising control over certain broadcasts transmitted by broadcasters falling under the jurisdiction of other member states, the United Kingdom had failed to fulfil its obligations under a Community directive.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on an application by the Commission of the European Communities under article 169 of the EC Treaty for a declaration that the United Kingdom, by failing to implement correctly Council Directive 89/552/EEC of October 3, 1989 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in member states concerning the public service of television broadcasting activities (OJ 1989 L293 p23), had failed to fulfil its obligations under articles 2(1) and (2) and 3(2) of this directive.

The United Kingdom was charged with having failed to fulfil its obligations by:

(i) adopting, with respect to satellite broadcasts, the criteria set forth in section 43 of the 1990 Act for determining which satellite broadcasters fell under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom, and, in the exercise of that jurisdiction, applying to non-domestic satellite services a different regime than that applicable to domestic satellite services;

(ii) exercising control over broadcasts transmitted by a broadcaster falling under the jurisdiction of another member state when those broadcasts were transmitted by a non-domestic satellite service or conveyed to the public as, inter

alia, a licensable programme service.

Article 2 of Directive 89/552 provides: "(1) Each member state shall ensure that all television broadcasts transmitted by broadcasters under its jurisdiction, or by broadcasters who, while not being under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom or any member state, make use of a frequency or a satellite capacity granted by or a satellite up-link situated in that member state, comply with the law applicable to broadcasts intended for the public in that member state."

"(2) Member states shall ensure freedom of reception and shall not restrict retransmission on their territory of television broadcasts from other member states for reasons which fall within the fields covered by this directive."

Article 3 provides: "(1) Member states shall remain free to require television broadcasters under their jurisdiction to lay down more detailed or stricter rules in the area covered by this directive."

The Commission objected that section 43 did not comply with article 2(1) of the directive in four respects.

The first objection was that section 43 applied criteria other than that of establishment for determining which broadcasters under their jurisdiction had to fulfil the requirements of the United Kingdom.

The Commission's position was that broadcasters under the jurisdiction of a member state were, for the purposes of article 2(1) of the directive, those established in the member state concerned, but the United Kingdom argued that the member state having jurisdiction within that article was that from whose territory the broadcast was transmitted.

If the only criterion were that of the place from which the broadcast was transmitted, the second indent of article 2(1) would be without substance.

Moreover, it was plain from the wording of article 2(1) that a broadcaster could not both be under the jurisdiction of a member state within the meaning of the first indent of that article and be in the situation envisaged by the second indent, which related only to broadcasters not falling under the jurisdiction of any member state.

The United Kingdom argued that the second indent referred to satellite broadcasting, so that the first indent of that provision referred to terrestrial broadcasting, but that argument presupposed that the word "jurisdiction" had a different meaning in each of the two indents.

By section 43(1), a domestic satellite service meant a television broadcasting service where the programmes included in the service were transmitted by satellite from a place in the United Kingdom on a frequency allocated to the United Kingdom and for general reception in the United Kingdom.

By section 43(2), a non-domestic satellite service meant a service

consisting in transmission from a place in the United Kingdom for general reception in the United Kingdom or in a member state otherwise than on an allocated frequency, or from a place outside the United Kingdom or any member state for general reception in the United Kingdom or in a member state where the programme material was provided by a person in the United Kingdom who had editorial control over programming content.

Section 44(3) applied to domestic satellite services provisions of section 16(2) concerning conditions, laid down in articles 4 and 5 of the directive, relating to the programming of works of European origin, but section 45(2) did not do so with regard to non-domestic satellite services.

The Commission objected that section 43 did not comply with article 2(1) of the directive in four respects.

The fourth objection was that, besides being based on criteria other than that of the broadcaster's place of establishment, the distinction drawn in section 43 of the Act between domestic and non-domestic satellite services was not in conformity with article 2(2) of the directive, as regards transmissions both from the state in which it had its principal place of establishment and from the state in which it had its secondary place of establishment; there would therefore be a risk that more than one member state would have jurisdiction over the same broadcaster.

The criterion contended for by the United Kingdom might produce problems in the delimitation of jurisdiction which, in its view, could be resolved only through the conclusion of international agreements between the member states.

However, the second indent envisaged the exercise of such jurisdiction only on condition that no other member state had jurisdiction under the first indent.

Member state B could have jurisdiction in the circumstances envisaged in the second indent only if, pursuant to the first indent, it could assert jurisdiction ratione personae over television broadcasters wishing to make use of (i) a frequency or the capacity of a satellite linked to member state A or (ii) an up-link situated within member state A's territory, to a satellite not falling under the jurisdiction of member state A.

It followed that the concept of jurisdiction of a member state, used in the first indent of article 2(1), must be understood as necessarily covering jurisdiction ratione personae over television broadcasters.

That interpretation was born out by the wording of the first indent of article 2(1) in that it referred to broadcasters as being under the jurisdiction of a member state without referring, in that

context, to the place from which they transmitted their broadcasts.

A member state's jurisdiction ratione personae over a broadcaster could be based only on the broadcaster's connection to that state's legal system, which in substance overlapped with the concept of establishment as used in the first paragraph of article 59 of the EC Treaty, the wording of which presupposed that the supplier and the recipient of a service were established in two different member states.

The court then considered and rejected an argument by the United Kingdom based on article 52 of the Council of Europe Convention on Transfrontier Television of May 5, 1989.

Among further arguments advanced by the United Kingdom was that a broadcaster could be established in more than one member state, and that it should be entitled to have the benefit of the provisions of the directive as regards transmissions both from the state in which it had its principal place of establishment and from the state in which it had its secondary place of establishment; there would therefore be a risk that more than one member state would have jurisdiction over the same broadcaster.

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That interpretation was born out by the wording of the first indent of article 2(1) in that it referred to broadcasters as being under the jurisdiction of a member state without referring, in that

context, to the place from which they transmitted their broadcasts.

The third objection was that the second indent did not seek to ensure that broadcasts from non-member countries using a frequency allocated to the United Kingdom for general reception in another member state complied with the law applicable to broadcasts intended for the public in that member country without exercising control over them.

The United Kingdom submitted that there would be a breach of the second indent of article 2(1) of the directive even in the highly unusual event that it was to grant a frequency to a broadcaster from a non-member country without exercising control over it.

Even though that might only be a hypothetical case, the United Kingdom did not deny that in that respect the Act was not in conformity with the directive, so that that objection also had to be founded.

The fourth objection was that, besides being based on criteria other than that of the broadcaster's place of establishment, the distinction drawn in section 43 of the Act between domestic and non-domestic satellite services was not in conformity with article 2(2) of the directive, as far as section 43 made non-domestic services subject to a less stringent regime than domestic ones.

The question whether the United

Kingdom had satisfied its obligations under articles 4 and 5 of the directive with regard to non-domestic satellite services was the subject of separate proceedings under article 169 of the Treaty.

Since the United Kingdom did not deny that a less stringent regime was applied to non-domestic satellite services, the only question arising in the present proceedings was whether article 2(1) precluded such different treatment.

While a member state could, under article 3(1), lay down stricter rules in the areas covered by the directive, the fact remained that, under article 2(1), all broadcasts transmitted by broadcasters under the jurisdiction of that member state or over which it was required to exercise jurisdiction pursuant to the second indent of article 2(1) had to comply with the law applicable to broadcasts intended for the public in that member state.

The objection was therefore well founded.

Finally, the Commission objected that sections 44 and 45 of the Act, dealing with the definition of domestic and non-domestic satellite services, were not in conformity with article 2(2) of the directive in that the definition of those services in section 43 of the Act included broadcasters falling under the jurisdiction of other member states, thereby giving rise to the possibility of double control.

The question whether the United

Kingdom had satisfied its obligations under article 43 of the directive with regard to non-domestic satellite services was the subject of separate proceedings under article 169 of the Treaty.

On those grounds, the European Court of Justice declared:

By adopting, with respect to satellite broadcasts, the criteria set forth in section 43 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 for the purpose of determining which satellite broadcasters falling under the jurisdiction of other member states, the United Kingdom had failed to fulfil its obligations under articles 2(1) and 3(2) of Directive 89/552.

Imposing anti-dumping duty

Climax Paper Converters Ltd v Council of the European Union

Case T-155/94

A policy of the Community institutions, in relation to the imposition of anti-dumping duties, of refusing individual treatment to undertakings from non-market economy countries, but imposing a single duty in respect of the entire country, was not contrary to the letter, purpose or spirit of the basic anti-dumping regulation, if the policy was necessary for the Community to protect itself against dumping and against the risk of protective measures being well founded.

The Court of First Instance of the European Communities so held, inter alia, on September 18 when dismissing an application for the

prohibition of the imposition of a single anti-dumping duty for state-trading countries.

Moreover, in pursuing the disputed policy, the institutions did not wrongly interpret the term "if practicable" in article 13(2) of that regulation, which provided that anti-dumping regulations "shall indicate in particular... the name of the supplier, if practicable."

It was not so practicable if, in order to avoid the risk of circumventing anti-dumping duties, it was necessary to impose a single duty for an entire country, and that was particularly so where, in the case of a state-trading country, the Community institutions had examined the situation of the exporters concerned and were not convinced that those exporters were acting independently of the state.

Scots Law Report September 30 1996 Court of Session

Choosing law of restitutionary remedy when contract is void

Baring Brothers & Co Ltd v Cunningham District Council

Before Lord Penrose

Judgment May 24

Where a forward-rate swap contract was void ab initio by reason of being beyond the powers of one of the parties, the proper law of any restitutionary remedies available was not necessarily the same as that specified in the choice-of-law clause.

Rather, the court was entitled to hear proof on the matter of whether there was in reality only one centre with which the transaction had a material connection, which might or might not be in the same jurisdiction as that specified in the choice-of-law clause.

Lord Penrose so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session when allowing Baring Brothers & Co Ltd a proof before answer in an action of payment brought by them against Cunningham District Council.

Mr Gerard Moynihan for the pursuers; Mr Neil Davidson, QC, for the defendants.

Lord Penrose said that the pursuers were a bank who had entered into a forward-rate swap agreement with the defenders on September 21, 1988. It incorporated the standard form terms of the British Bankers' Association.

It was agreed between the parties that, following the decision in *Morgan Guaranty Trust Co v Lothian Regional Council* (1995 SLT 299) the contract was ultra vires the defenders and therefore void ab initio.

Factors influencing caution for expenses

There was a choice-of-law clause specifying that English law was to apply to the contract. The pursuers sought restitution by repayment of the excess of sums paid by them to the council over sums paid by the council under the contract.

It was agreed that under Scots law the claim was extinguished by prescription and that under English law the limitation period had not expired.

His Lordship observed that the choice of law applicable to restitutionary claims when a contract was held or admitted to be void after partial or complete execution had been the subject of debate among eminent jurists and other commentators, but had received little attention from the courts. There might be various reasons for that.

It was possible that the issues which arose in the present case might have been raised in *Morgan*. The choice-of-law clause in that case provided that the agreement was governed by and was to be construed in accordance with the substantive law of the place where the contract was made.

At that time there was a third stage at which one sought to determine the nature and extent of any restitutionary remedy to be applied.

The quasi-contractual issue did not arise in a vacuum. It arose by reference to events or transactions which had taken place under reference to a contract believed to have been valid according to a particular legal system.

That system of hypothesis held the contract void; but its restitutionary remedies had to be assumed to be consistent with the system of law generally applicable.

It was not clear that that would have been so and it would be inappropriate to express any view on counsel's suggestion. Litigation was a practical art in which the results for which the parties

respectively contended might be but incidentally related to the elucidation of legal principle.

Whilst that reduced to some extent the impact of the absence of comment on the issue in *Morgan*, the novelty of counsel's argument in a Scottish context could not but be emphasised by the fact that the point was not taken by counsel involved in that case.

In summarising the argument, counsel for the pursuers had identified three stages in the development of a claim for restitution.

At the first stage, parties acted on the assumption that there was in force a contract which regulated their relationship.

At the second, an issue arose as to the validity of the contract and that had to be determined on the proper law of the restitutionary remedy.

One was left without any truly objective justification for applying English law.

There were few facts on which one could rely in deciding whether Scots or English law was the law with which the arrangement between the parties had the closest connection.

Counsel for the defenders had argued that dicta of the Lord President in *Morgan* (at p37) were binding and led to the conclusion in the present case that the pursuers could not find in any way on anything contained in the contract and in particular the choice-of-law clause. The agreement was void and one could not erect any valid claim on the basis of a nullity.

The view which his Lordship had formed was consistent with *Morgan* and was that it was incompetent to rely on direct application of a provision in a void contract in determining the choice of law in the context of restitution.

The context in which the Lord President's comments had been made were wholly different from

that of the present case. *Morgan* was that void was void all questions which related to claims for restitution were regulated by the putative proper law, at least where that had a practical connection with the transaction which had taken place.

Counsel for the defenders had argued that dicta of the Lord President in *Morgan* (at p37) were binding and led to the conclusion in the present case that the pursuers could not find in any way on anything contained in the contract and in particular the choice-of-law clause. The agreement was void and one could not erect any valid claim on the basis of a nullity.

His Lordship considered it appropriate to deal with that issue as one of principle on the basis that there was no authority adverse to that approach. The extensive discussion of the academic commentaries reflected the view that there was no binding authority and that there was a lack of convincing analysis in such authority as existed leaving apparent contractual obligation as the only factor explaining the transfer.

The objective features in the typical case were those related to the fact of transfer and the absence of obligation at the time of that transfer. Gratuitous intent could usually be excluded leaving apparent contractual obligation as the only factor explaining the transfer.

If that were not so there would be no point in permitting the derogation nor in taking advantage of it.

Leaving aside the peculiar problem associated with choice-of-law clauses, it might well be that in the majority of cases in which a remedy in restitution was required following failure of a contract, for whatever reason, the facts and circumstances were likely to point to the same system of law as appropriate for the resolution of the quasi-contractual issues between the parties as would have been appropriate for the resolution of contractual issues of the problem of the contract stood.

Whatever the relevance of such a belief to the right to recover once a contract was void, it was or should be a rule that the putative proper law of the apparent contract should dictate the choice of law to govern any restitutionary claim.

Whether the relevance of such a belief to the right to recover once a contract was void, it was or should be a rule that the putative proper law of the apparent contract should dictate the choice of law to govern any restitutionary claim.

That would best result from the application of a broad test from which one might reasonably accept two propositions:

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Clarkwell International, CNC Properties, Edinburgh Fund Managers, Edinburgh Investment Trust, Environmental Investments, Healthcall Group, Hescox, Fiscal Properties, Inch Kenneth, Koring, M&G International, New Gurney, Securities, Oasis Stores, Scottish Asset Investment, Self Sealing Systems, Unicron International. Finals: Bellwinch, DCS Group, Guardian Media Group, Hidong Estate, Northern Leisure, Scottish Asian Investment. Economic statistics: UK August final M4; UK August consumer credit; UK September provisional MD.

TOMORROW

Interims: Ash & Lacey, Boosey & Hawkes, Cardinal Business Group, House of Fraser, Hat Pin, Maiden Group, Oxfam, Smita Fund, Worldwide & Partners. Finals: Frogmore Estates, Lloyd's Thompson Group.

Economic statistics: UK September purchasing managers index; US August leading indicators; IMF annual meeting opens.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Albany Inv Tr, Bank of Scotland, Bilton, Blenheim, Hewden Stuart, HTV Group, JJB Sports, Marks & Spencer, Pilkington. Finals: None scheduled.

Economic statistics: UK September official reserves.

THURSDAY

Interims: Dimelton International, Hopkinsons Group, Martin International Holdings, Schroder Split Fund. Finals: WWI, Galliford.

Economic statistics: Bundesbank central council meeting; IMF annual meeting ends.

FRIDAY

Interims: HC Slingby, Finalists: Waterman Partnership Holdings. Economic statistics: August housing starts; US September non-farm payrolls; Halifax house price index; UK Nationwide house price index.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Sell Kwik Save, Chesterton; Buy The Personal Number Company, Coutts Consulting Group, The Observer; Buy Enterprise. *The Sunday Telegraph:* Buy HTV, Groupe Gerard, Oasis, Hull; Tottenham Hotspur, Ockham. *Independent on Sunday:* Buy MR. Morrison Construction, JJB Sports. *The Mail on Sunday:* Buy Standard Chartered. *Sunday Express:* Buy Glaxo Wellcome.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

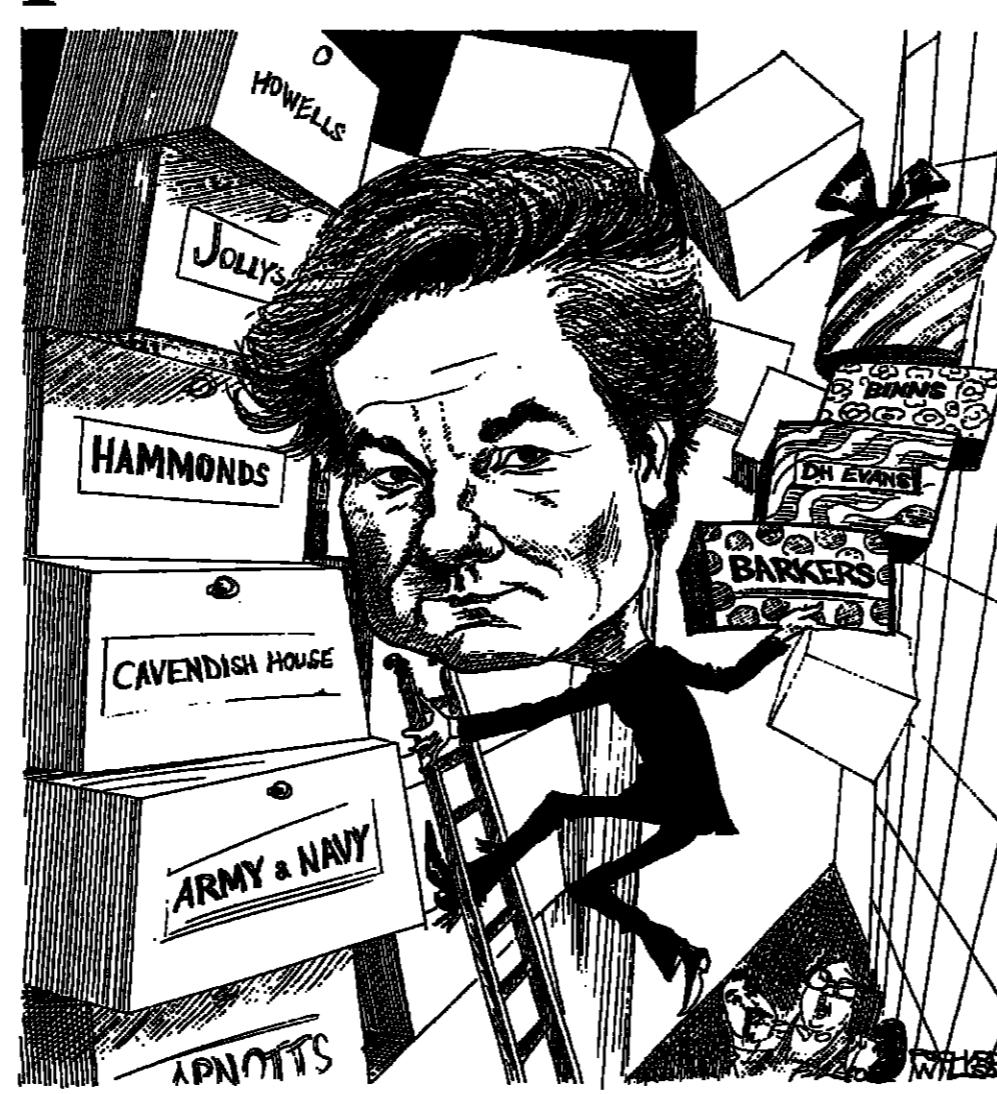
Losses past haunt House of Fraser

HOUSE OF FRASER: These will be maiden results for John Coleman, the chief executive appointed in April. Unfortunately, they are unlikely to make pleasant reading, with increased losses expected in tomorrow's half-year figures.

Brokers say that the results will reflect the mistakes made by the previous management, showing pre-tax losses ballooning from £4.3 million to £7 million, while the loss per share climbs from 1.3p to 2.2p. The dividend is likely to be maintained at 1.7p.

It is doubtful that Mr Coleman has been wasting his time since taking over the reins and it is likely that the figures will be accompanied by the unveiling of a new strategy for the group. This, and the apparent upturn in consumer confidence, should result in a brighter future.

Unlike many other retailers, Fraser, under Brian McGowan, its chairman, has been cautious about current trading. The statement, at the annual meeting in May, talked of 1996-97 as a period of consolidation. Like-for-like sales in the first 17 weeks of the year were up 5.1 per cent, but remain overshadowed by the poor performance of the bought women's wear division. This, combined with the clearing back of lines of fashion stock, means that there is unlikely to be any improvement in margins until the second half at the earliest. NatWest Securities, the broker, says that tomorrow's figures will show a further decline in margins of almost 1 per cent, with overall sales held back by the closure last year of four stores.



Consolidation has meant a decline in margins at House of Fraser for Brian McGowan

trails behind the average 22 per cent increase for shareholders of rival banks.

Loan volumes are estimated to be increasing at about 12 per cent, with margins holding up relatively well. Much of this gain will have been offset by rising costs, which are reckoned to have increased 16 per cent year-on-year. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts should drop by about £5 million, to £60 million.

HTV GROUP: The group's share price last week overcame initial nervousness, prompted by

talk of a European alliance as speculation about a bid from Carlton was revived. This week, the independent broadcaster will have a chance to shore up its defences when it unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. These are expected to show pre-tax profits growing by about £500,000, to £6.4 million, with earnings per share 4 per cent higher at 5p.

The market will be anxious to establish whether there has been any tail off in advertising revenue similar to that already indicated by other broadcasters. The general feeling is that HTV will have

recorded a decline in its share of advertising revenue, but stringent cost-control measures will ensure that operating profits will be up by about 7 per cent.

HEWDEN STUART: The group has made no secret of the fact that trading conditions have been difficult during the first half of the year, and that will no doubt be reflected when the group reports on Wednesday.

But Hewden Stuart is a well-managed company and appears to have learnt its lesson since the problems of the late 1980s, when

profits fell away to almost nothing. In spite of a difficult first half, brokers are still predicting an increase in pre-tax profits of about 22 per cent to almost £20 million. This underlines just how much the group is capable of achieving when good times return to the construction industry.

NatWest Securities, the broker, is a fan of Hewden Stuart. It points out that the group derives a return of between 20 and 23 per cent on its book capital employed. But an aggressive capital expenditure programme and the short life span of its plant equipment fleet means that its stated capital employed is close to its replacement value.

The fact that the management has never set out to paint a brighter picture of prospects this year suggests that costs have been kept to a minimum and any erosion in profits will have been minimal.

Earnings, up 22 per cent at 5p, should have improved in line with profits. The growth in the interim dividend will be of a more modest nature, showing a rise of 14 per cent to 0.8p. A payment of 3p has been pencilled in for the full year.

BLENHEIM: Half-year figures on Wednesday will probably come as a welcome change to the directors of Blenheim, who seem to have spent the best part of the past few months locked in takeover talks. After the breakdown of earlier talks with Reed Elsevier and United News & Media, it now looks as though Reed has decided to have another crack at it. Both sides are now trying to agree a price.

In the meantime, Blenheim is expected to turn in lower profits in the first six months compared with £13.1 million for the corresponding period, which in turn was down on the previous year. Brokers' expectations currently range from £9 million to £12 million and the shortfall will come as little surprise to the City. They say the final outcome always depends on how many of the big shows the group can stage. This apart, Blenheim should now begin to benefit from recent rationalisation and expansion moves into Eastern Europe.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Season for signals from the seaside

The biggest focus for London financial markets this week will be the Labour Party conference, in Blackpool, which will be tracked closely for any new hints on economic policy. John Sheppard, chief economist of Yamaichi International Europe, said: "With the Conservative Party conference next week, we are now entering what promises to be one of the longest election campaigns ever. A daunting prospect."

Among British economic statistics due this week are the publication of M0 money supply growth and consumer credit, both today. MU is expected to have shown no growth in September, according to a consensus of market forecasts by MMS International, which would take its annual growth rate down to 6.5 per cent, from 7.5 per cent in August.

Consumer credit growth is reckoned to have been a touch weaker than the strength in July.

Tomorrow the latest report from British purchasing managers should reveal another modest improvement in manufacturing activity. Wednesday sees figures for the official reserves. August housing starts will be reported on Friday.

American developments will continue to be of keen interest after last week's surprise decision by the US Federal Reserve not to raise interest rates, as many had expected. Among the key US statistics this week are figures for personal income in August, published today. August leading indicators and September domestic car and truck sales tomorrow. August construction spending on Wednesday and August factory orders and home completions on Thursday.

The most eagerly awaited comes last Friday's September labour market data. Strong employment growth in August, with non-farm payrolls up 250,000 in the month and a fall in the unemployment rate to 5.1 per cent, convinced many that interest rates were set to rise.

In September it is thought fewer jobs were added, partly because the survey period was only four weeks. The unemployment rate may tick up again to 5.2 per cent.

On Saturday, there are two potentially interesting events. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, addresses a banking conference in Hawaii, and tentative arrangements have been made for another European Union conference in Dublin.

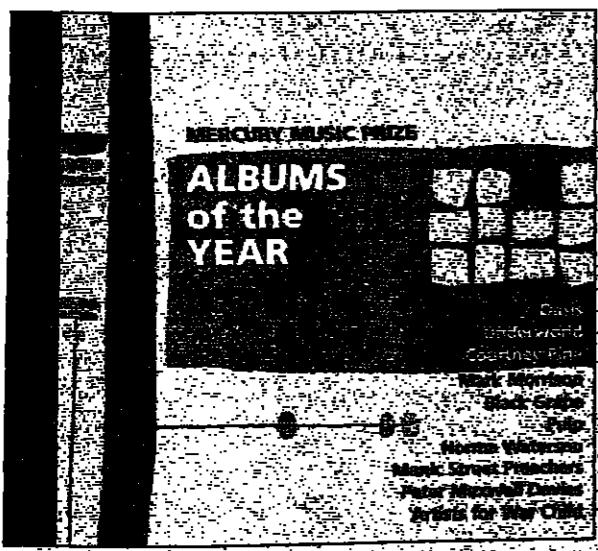
JANET BUSH

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1996 MERCURY MUSIC PRIZE ALBUMS OF THE YEAR TRACK LISTING

1. Courtney Pine *The 37th Chamber* 4.20
2. Mark Morrison *Return Of The Mack* 4.34
3. Pulp *Disco 2000* 4.10
4. Black Grape *A Big Day In The North* 4.10
5. Norma Waterson *There Ain't No Sweet Man* 2.53
6. Manic Street Preachers *A Design for Life* 4.17
7. Oasis *Hey Now!* 5.41
8. Radiohead (for War Child) *Lucky* 4.20
9. Underworld *Confusion* *The Waitress* 6.46
10. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies/BBC Philharmonic *The Beltane Fire* (excerpt) 4.29

Musical excellence, regardless of genre, remains the sole criterion for inclusion on the Mercury list (*David Sinclair writes*), but in judging who should win the prize, the hardest part of the task in previous years has been to decide between records of similar provenance (*Suede vs*



In a different class: Pulp, winners of the 1996 Mercury Music Prize

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THE TIMES
MERCURY
CD TOKEN 2

Midlands likely site for Rover

By PAUL DURMAN

THE Government is believed to be close to granting about £70 million of aid that will create 2,000 jobs in the West Midlands building engines for BMW and Rover cars.

Negotiations on a deal over the siting of a £400 million engine factory recently entered their final stage when Walter Hasselkus, Rover's new chief executive, met senior officials from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The DTI is thought to have broadly agreed to the demands made by Rover and its German parent. The aid package still awaits final government approval.

The planned site for the new engine factory is Hams Hall in North Warwickshire. The other options considered by BMW were in Hungary and Austria.

Prickly investors give Thistle a modest welcome

By MARTIN WALLER

THISTLE HOTELS, the latest in a rash of hotels groups to be floated on the stock market this year, will be priced tomorrow or Wednesday. Most analysts expect the shares to be valued below the middle of the quoted range, at between 180p and 190p, valuing the business at about £1.1 billion.

Anything less than 190p would be a reverse for the company and Merrill Lynch, lead broker to the issue, which took the unusual step last week of giving an update of the book-building process. Investors were invited to bid for shares within a 170p to 210p indicative range.

The broker said the issue was already oversubscribed, with most investors applying at the middle of the indicative range or above. There had been suggestions that City institutions regarded this range as too ambitious, particularly at the top end which would represent a significant premium, on

a like-for-like basis, over other quoted hotels groups. But the float, of Britain's biggest independent hotels operator, had been buttressed by higher than expected interest from the retail investor.

The initial assumption had been that about 7.5 per cent might go to private shareholders, encouraged by a 15 per cent discount on prices at the group's hotels and restaurants available to those applying for shares at the flotation. It is now thought that about 12.5 per cent may go to private investors, applications from whom were due in to financial intermediaries by Friday evening. Institutional book-building closes tomorrow.

Robert Peel, Thistle's chief executive, made much during City presentations of Thistle's fast earnings growth although institutions have professed concern about the short-term effects on earnings of low rates of tax and depreciation. This

is, originally Mount Charlotte hotels, is the product of that company's 1989 purchase of the Thistle Hotel chain of 35 four-star properties from Scottish & Newcastle, the brewer. In 1991, the group was taken over by Brierley Investments, of New Zealand. After the float, the Auckland investment company will hold less than 50 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Brands Hatch Leisure, which owns Culton Park, Snettisham and Cadwell Park as well as the Kent motor racing circuit, is seeking a stock exchange quotation via a placing by Besson Gregory. The company was bought from Eagle Star by the late John Foulston's family in 1987. Nicola Foulston has been chief executive since 1990. The group hopes to raise at least £8 million in new money in a float that could value the enlarged company at up to £40 million.



THE Reuters City Sevens rugby tournament took place in Richmond, Surrey, yesterday, with 32 teams aiming to emerge triumphant from the pack. The event, in its twenty-fourth year, was held in aid of Sparks, which funds research in children's medicine.

KPMG calls for end to preliminary reports

COMPANIES should scrap preliminary profit reports, KPMG, the leading auditor, concludes after a study of them. The reports, which are supposed to give early indications of company results to the Stock Exchange, but are not sent to shareholders, have become cumbersome, expensive and unnecessary (Graham Seaman writes).

KPMG found that most preliminary statements are based on audited accounts. They have also reached an average of 18 pages, compared with one or two when they first gained sway in the early 1960s.

Improved printing technology has made it possible to issue a plain version of a company's full accounts just as fast in most cases, including a directors' report and an operating and financial review.

As part of linked reforms, KPMG suggests that glossy annual reports should normally contain only a summary financial statement to shareholders, as a handful of companies now do. Full accounts accounts could be folded in for professionals and for private shareholders who wanted them.

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The good news, the bad and the great unknown

The good, the bad and the unknown. The gilt market will face all three in the next year. The good news will be on inflation, particularly in the next few months. Despite market fears that the economy is about to overheat, there is no evidence of this.

Core producer output price inflation has eased from 3.4 per cent to 1.3 per cent in the past six months and is set to reach zero soon, as competitive pressures persist. The Government's targeted measure of retail price inflation has stuck stubbornly around 2.8 per cent this year but will soon fall below the Government's 2.5 per cent target, as good news on producer prices feeds through.

Inflation risks must be watched closely, given the UK's poor record. But this recovery has been very different. Inflation has stayed low, in spite of sterling's ERM exit and four years of economic growth. The economy may be able to grow more strongly than the market believes before inflation intrudes.

Firms have used existing capacity and labour more efficiently in this recovery. There are no signs of supply bottlenecks, in spite of the UK's low rate of investment. The trade deficit remains well behaved and has not even begun to act as a safety valve for inflation pressures. There is no evidence of wage pressures, in spite of the fall in unemployment.

Consumers remain resistant to price rises, forcing retailers to keep prices down. Such price resistance will be crucial in restraining service sector inflation. As growth gains momentum next year, the gilt market may doubt that this favourable inflation trend will last, but it should, particularly if wage rises are contained.

The bad news remains the budget deficit. Stronger growth will ease the public sector borrowing requirement, but this cyclical impact will not be huge. The deficit's high level suggests that hard choices on spending are still being avoided.

The Chancellor's Budget

Labour in the middle of the political spectrum.

After the election, he aims to appeal to the financial markets, being tough on inflation. The unknown factor is at what stage Labour will appeal to its own voters, who want higher spending on health, education and other areas. And will Labour be able to control public sector pay?

The euphoria of victory may delay Labour voters' calls for higher public spending. Mr Blair hopes a 'growth dividend' will save Labour, allowing more spending without upsetting the markets. But it may not. The risk premium on gilts would also decrease if Labour took a pro-Monetary Union stance, but it may not be able to, because of the constraints this would put on fiscal policy. Continued good inflation news suggests that gilt yields are still attractive. Stronger economic growth in the next year may ease bad news on the budget. So provided the political unknown doesn't turn out ugly, gilt yields should fall sharply.

GERARD LYONS
DKB International

CHANGE ON WEEK

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch.	17.10	16.21
Belgium Fr	51.69	47.59
Canada \$	2.242	2.082
Cyprus CypE	0.759	0.704
Denmark Kr	7.70	8.90
Finland Mkr	7.70	7.95
France Fr	8.44	7.79
Germany Dm	2.53	2.32
Greece Dr	390	365
Hong Kong \$	12.71	11.71
Iceland	1.15	0.95
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.37	4.72
Italy Lira	2481	2326
Japan Yen	186.90	170.90
Malta	0.605	0.550
Netherlands Gld	2.618	2.588
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.68	9.88
Portugal Esc	253.00	234.50
S Africa Rr	7.67	6.87
Spain Pta	206.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	11.02	10.22
Switzerland Fr	2.09	1.91
Turkey Lira	144.00	136.00
USA \$	1.660	1.530

STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 share	
2822.4 (-18.5)	
FT-SE 100	
3946.4 (-17.7)	
New York Dow Jones	
5872.92 (-15.54)	
Tokyo Nikkei Avgv	
21547.02 (+434.78)	

Rates for small denomination bank notes are supplied by Barclays Bank. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

Young's papers to be studied

The Serious Fraud Office will have its first chance this week to study documents seized from the Buckinghamshire home of Peter Young, the unit-trust manager sacked by Morgan Grenfell for gross misconduct.

With officers from City of London police, the SFO searched Mr Young's £450,000 house in Amersham on Friday evening. They took away a number of documents, but no arrest was made.

The SFO formally began its investigation of the Morgan Grenfell affair last Thursday, based on information from the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the City watchdog.

Mr Young's controversial handling of £1.4 billion of private investors' money has cast serious doubt on valuations that made his trusts spectacular performers.

Druid quote

Druid Group, an information technology consultancy that tailors standard network software for big companies, is seeking a Stock Exchange quotation and placing sponsored by SBC Warburg. Founded in 1987 by David Thompson, now managing director, Druid more than doubled pre-tax profit to £3 million in the year to June 30, up turnover up 94 per cent to £12 million.

On-Line offer

On-Line, which develops and supplies electronic games for CD-Rom and the Internet, hopes to raise £1 million for expansion through an institutional and retail offer on the Alternative Investment Market in a month's time. On-Line provides games playable by more than 20 people at once, and is developing The Interactive Rocky Horror Show for CD-Rom. Grant Thornton is adviser and IA Pritchard the broker.

Insurance unions to sue over mergers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

UNION leaders have pledged to sue insurance companies that fail to notify them in advance of mergers that cause swinging job cuts among their members.

The threat follows a wave of redundancies as the insurance industry undergoes the most dramatic shake-up in its recent history. The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union (MSF), one of the biggest unions involved, is angry that often employees first hear that they may lose their jobs from newspapers and morning radio reports in a "corridore cult".

MSF is negotiating with management over job losses after the merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance; the proposed merger between Refuge Assurance and United Friendly; Liverpool Victoria's purchase of the Frizzell Group, the insurers, and at Scottish Widows, the mutual life insurer that announced earlier this year that 500 jobs were to go.

Tony Whiteley, assistant general secretary of the MSF, said: "While we understand that the timing of these announcements is very sensitive, we do not believe details of job losses need to be given at the same time. This is done only to please the City."

"It is possible that when we sit down with management to discuss redundancies, it will emerge that far fewer compulsory redundancies need to be made than were originally thought. At Scottish Widows, for example, there has not been a single compulsory redundancy so far."

The MSF claims continuing rationalisation has left the industry's 200,000 staff anxious about their future. "The reality for people who work in the industry is that they are in for a rough ride and they

know it," Mr Whiteley said. He believes the trend to convert mutuals into companies threatens jobs in Scottish life insurance, which has its heartland in Edinburgh. He has called a conference in Scotland, inviting both the Scottish Office and leading insurers to address these concerns.

In May Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance announced that their merger and the formation of a new company, Royal & Sun Alliance, would result in the loss of 5,000 jobs, 4,000 of them in the UK. In July 94 branches were closed and 1,300 jobs lost.

This week Lloyds TSB announced a bid for its remaining shareholding in Lloyds Abbey Life, and acknowledged that job cuts would be necessary when the business was streamlined.

Refuge and United Friendly are to shed around 1,800 jobs between them if their proposed merger goes ahead.

Some observers believe the industry could lose half the current 200,000 workforce by the end of the decade. Further cuts are expected as banks and insurers try to stay ahead of the competition.

Recent market rumour has centred on Legal & General, which is believed to have caught the eye of NatWest Bank. With a current market value of about £4 billion, L&G would probably cost £5 billion or £10 a share to buy and would be a large, but digestible acquisition for the bank.

London & Manchester has also been the subject of persistent bid rumours and Norwich Union is on the verge of announcing it is to be demergered.

Guardian Royal Exchange, widely regarded as the weak man of the composites, has been rumoured to have held talks with Commercial Union.

Lord and Lady Harris of Peckham took a trip down memory lane (well, High Street, Penge) on Saturday to see old customers at the very shop where they once worked as plain Phillip and Pauline 39 years ago in his family's limo and carpet emporium. The carpet king has just added it to the Harveys chain, part of his H&C Furnishings.

Firecrest faces AIM delisting

BY FRASER NELSON AND HARRY CLEVELEY

FIRECREST, the marketing-to-Internet group once hailed as the wonder stock of the Alternative Investment Market (AIM), is expected to become the first company to be delisted from it.

The Stock Exchange has told

the group to name a replacement by the end of tomorrow for Singer & Friedlander, which this month resigned as its nominated adviser.

If Firecrest fails to do so, its shares will move to the unregulated Oflex market. It joined AIM at 42p a share and hit

192p last year, valuing the group at £45 million. The shares were suspended at 44p. The company says it is in talks with a potential bidder.

Last week it suffered further bad publicity from allegations by the founders of Nethead, in which Firecrest has 74 per cent, after they were sacked.

Hanson starts its demerger

BY CLARE STEWART

HANSON'S Operation Delmerger will start taking effect tomorrow morning when dealing begins in Imperial Tobacco, the first group to be floated separately. Analysts expect Imperial shares to open at 375p to 380p, valuing it at almost £1.2 billion.

Hanson shareholders receive one share of Millennium Chemicals for every 10 Hanson shares held on October 1 and one Imperial for every ten Hanson. Investors who buy Hanson shares by the close of business today will receive Millennium and Imperial shares. Holdings too small to qualify will receive cash.

Low-cost dealing facilities for investors with smaller holdings of either Millennium or Imperial have been set up, and run until December 2. The removal of Imperial is likely to cut the rump Hanson share price by about 38p and Millennium is expected to take away a further 22p.

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soritum that executed the project that will take commuters from Lewisham to the Isle of Dogs and back. And isn't BZW moving 3,500 employees to new headquarters in Canary Wharf next March?

SEAN BLOWERS, the actor perhaps better known as Sub-officer John Hallam from TV's London's Burning, has set sail from Southampton on the Commercial Union Assurance yacht to compete in the BT Global Challenge, one of the world's toughest yacht races. Blowers, who will spend four months aboard, waved goodbye to his TV persona yesterday after Sub-officer Hallam died in a fire.

Employers find the traditional three Rs are much more important than IT skills and foreign languages. Nearly half of the 700 senior managers taking part in the survey by Black Horse Relocation and Management Today said availability of a quality workforce was by far the most important criterion in choosing a new base. London displaced Birmingham as the best location. Walsall, Brighton and Halifax were least loved.

Name your choice

IVAN MASSOW, the self-consciously gay IFA, has launched a £30,000 poster campaign featuring him and his boyfriend. "For the life that you may not want Allied Dunbar to know about" is just one of the campaign slogans attacking insurance companies for loading life premiums for gay men. Around 24,000 posters will appear in London, Manchester and Edinburgh. Massow tells me that his boyfriend, a hairdresser to the stars, was unsure about appearing in the campaign, and his parents certainly aren't happy.

Moving force

BZW bosses looked pleased with themselves at the opening of the extension to the Docklands Light Railway in London. No wonder — the investment bank acted as financial adviser to the con-

MORAG PRESTON

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 38

OCCULTATION

(e) Being hidden from view, or lost to notice. An astronomical term, referring specifically to the extinction of a heavenly body's light by the intervention of another. Such as Miss United Kingdom inadvertently or otherwise stepping between Miss France and the camera.

FARCEUR

(a) Strictly speaking, an actor or writer of farces, from the French. But in common parlance a farceur is a wagg or humourist whose japes tend towards the practical. Thus the young Barry Humphries, whose Melbourne exhibition of Dada art included a pair of boots filled with custard and labelled 'Pus in Boots', could be so described.

GODWIT

(c) A marsh-wading bird with a long, upward-curving bill. One can only wonder at the origin of this 16th-century bird-word. But its potential for the mockery and denigration of the sycamorous is obvious.

TRILEMMA

(b) A problematic situation in which there are not two, as in a dilemma, but three possible courses of action, each having its own disadvantages. You will find this rare word useful in many of the little accidents of life, including negotiations with garages repairing your car, marital arguments, property transactions, maternal visits, children's birthday parties, household budgeting, etc., etc.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

I Rh6+! gch 2 pfd and the f-pawn, assisted by the white king, will go through to promote.

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Internet Name Registration



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Lively launch for news service

KELVIN MACKENZIE, head of Live TV, sent European Business News, the 24-hour television station, into a spin at the launch of its autumn schedule.

Accompanied by a riotous gang from TLC, the cable company, and Flextech, its European arm, MacKenzie turned up at EBN's Fleet Place studios uninvited. A search party was dispatched to hunt down MacKenzie. Adam Singer, president of TLC International, and Michael Conner, EBN's managing director, discovered the one-time Sun editor creating chaos in Studio 1 from the presenter's chair. An impromptu interview with the prankster was being kept on tape at EBN.



1995	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Wkly pence	YTD %	P/E
150 ¹	132	15.00	AFA Systems	150 ¹	4.6	10.0
135 ²	97	19.20	AMCO Corp	134 ¹	10.0	...
131 ³	109	18.50	Amoco Int'l	95 ¹	-	...
62 ¹	18	3.27	Abacus Rec/P/P	59 ¹	-3	...
15 ¹	14 ²	1.16	Abacus Rec/P/P	14 ¹	-	...
161 ¹	93	21.50	Active Imaging	117 ²	-2	...
210 ¹	123	29.50	African Gold	200 ¹	3.8	15.6
20 ¹	74 ²	15.90	African Gold	15 ¹	+1	34.6
21 ¹	13	8.14	Albemarle & Bd	15 ¹	+1	15
25 ¹	10 ²	6.50	Alcoa	20 ¹	+2	...
24 ¹	10 ²	7.75	Alpha Ornithon	10 ¹	-	...
480 ¹	89	45.00	App St. Browne	480 ¹	4.8	12.9
985 ¹	58	5.84	Arco St. Cr Pl	985 ¹	8.2	...
121 ¹	48	5.20	Antonov	72 ²	-8	...
9 ¹	7	1.66	Arion Progs	7 ¹	-	55.9
81 ¹	32 ²	29.40	Ashurst	34 ¹	-1	...
141 ¹	63	1.26	Ashtech Central	120 ¹	-	...
64 ¹	55	1.16	Atelhey Trust	64 ¹	-	...
149 ¹	123	45.00	BATM Adv Comms	145 ¹	-	...
7 ¹	5 ²	8.37	Bataclan	145 ¹	-	...
110 ¹	116	1.80	BBG Comms	116 ¹	-	...
21 ¹	11	1.60	BBG Hldgs	116 ¹	-	...
225 ¹	68	1.65	Celebrated Group	116 ¹	-	...
125 ¹	6450	6.20	Celtic Pl Sts	6165 ¹	-	...
86 ¹	61	16.40	CI Comms/TV	121 ¹	-	14.8
100 ¹	53	7.44	Charnier Int'l	65 ¹	-	...
70 ¹	41	7.89	Charnier Int'l	45 ¹	-2	20.3
107 ¹	89	3.84	Br Bloodstock	91 ¹ </		

Philip Bassett looks at the union of purse and politics

New Labour and the ties that bind

If trade unions were a business, then with the rate of return they've got from the Labour Party since 1979, when all Labour's done for them is lose four elections, they would have been out of that market a long time ago. So at least claims the general secretary of a large UK trade union, wryly analysing the financial commitment Britain's unions have made to a political party that has now been out of power for close on two decades. The analysis is made all the sharper by what many union leaders feel is a clear drive under Tony Blair towards separation.

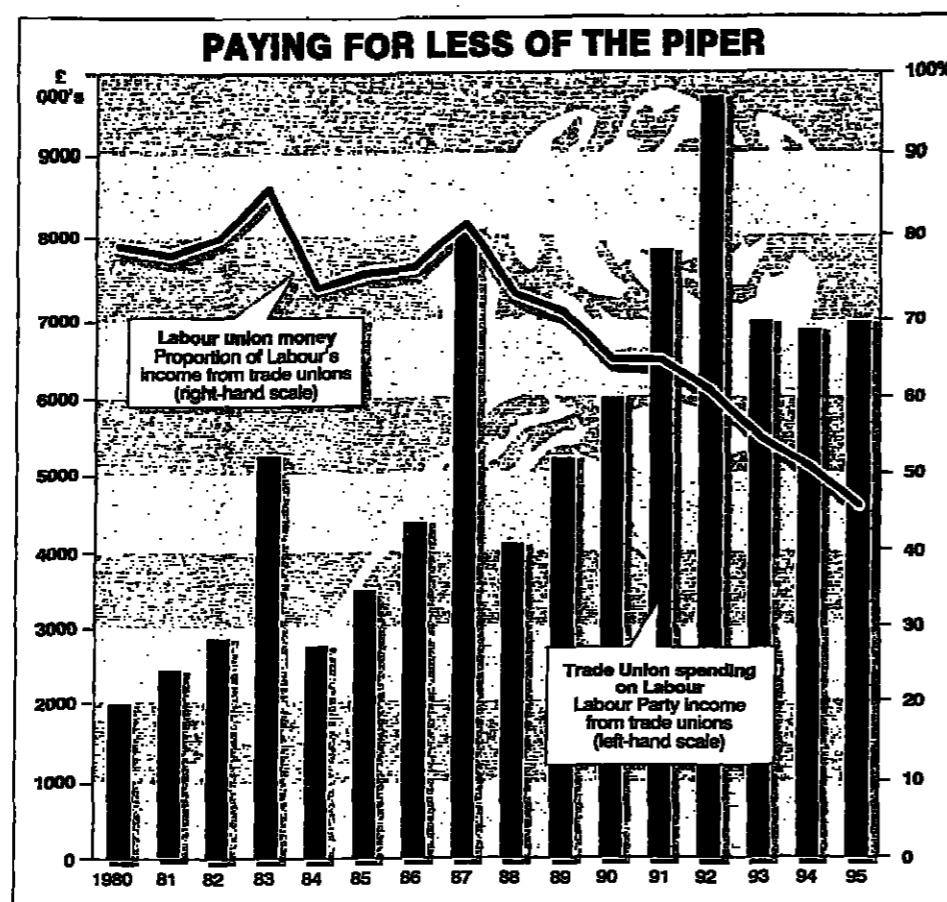
The Prime Minister takes a different view. Speaking last Friday, John Major gave warning that the unions "have a grip round the throat of a large part of the Labour Party machine. The Labour Party have been funded by the trade unions for a very long time, and they provide the bulk of their money".

Yet consider this: "If Labour comes in, it will enact many of the policies the unions want, like a minimum wage and union recognition," says David Metcalf, industrial relations professor at the London School of Economics. "You could say that this is a really good investment for the unions' money."

Is it? Is Labour a good investment for Britain's trade unions? And is trade union money still valuable to new Labour? As Labour's annual conference opens in Blackpool today the link between the party and the trade unions is again a central focus, with union leaders yesterday in the thick of arguments about specific Labour policies, and about the nature of the Labour-trade union relationship.

Today, *The Times* examines the core of that relationship — the financial link between the trade unions and the Labour Party, based on a detailed computer analysis of Labour's trade union funding since the party lost power at the 1979 general election, together with trade unions' political spending over that period.

With the advent in Labour of one member, one vote, the unions' old powers under which they effectively appointed the party leader are gone. With the decline in the unions' voting strength — today's par-



ties are not businesses and their finances fluctuate with the twists and turns of the electoral cycle. As the general election draws closer, so spending increases, and Labour's financial report to today's conference states: "While this deficit in four years is a disappointment, it is not unexpected at this stage of the electoral cycle, and leaves the party reasonably well placed to conduct the general election."

Financial support from the trade unions will be important to that. Investigations by *The Times* reveal that overall union contributions to previous general elections were extensive: £2.33 million in 1983, £3.97 million in 1987, and £4.98 million in 1992. The figures do not include unrecorded assistance, in terms of cars, offices, equipment and people's time that the unions also gave to Labour during elections. Unquestionably, union funding has been vital to Labour. In 1983, for instance, the first full financial year after Labour lost office, the unions contributed £2.03

million of Labour's total income of £2.55 million, or 79.5 per cent. That funding level broadly continued through the 1980s.

Even after the recession of the early Eighties union membership rolls continued to fall, and with them the unions' affiliation levels to Labour. In 1980, the unions affiliated 6.4 million members to the party. Figures issued by Labour yesterday showed that this is now down to 3.6 million, a fall of 2.3 million, or 43.6 per cent.

At the same time, key people were pressing for change: party modernisers such as Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson argued strongly for Labour to increase its individual membership and become a mass member party, which in turn meant computer and financial changes to make such a vision a reality. Faced with all this, fundraising provided only 2 per cent of Labour's income. Now it is almost 19 per cent.

As Labour draws nearer to the possibility of power, contributions from wealthy individuals are increasing: "high-value" income, as Labour now likes to call it, will total more than £2.5 million this year, after high-profile donations such as £500,000 from Bob Gavron, the publisher, and £1 million from Matthew Harding, Chelsea FC vice-chairman. The effect of all these changes is to decrease markedly the proportional contribution the trade unions make, as the chart shows.

The unions' share of Labour's income fell from 80 per cent after the party left office to just 46.6 per cent in 1995, establishing a downward trend of about 5 points a year that is likely to continue. Internal unpublished Labour calculations estimate that unions may provide only 41 to 42 per cent of Labour's income next year. As one senior Labour figure says: "The contribution of the trade unions to the party has declined and we have to make that absolutely clear to people."

Calculations by *The Times*, based on Labour's own figures, show that since 1980 affiliated trade unions have contributed £8.4 million to Labour. Adjusted to 1995 prices, that is more than £11 million, leaving aside the small amounts for sponsoring MPs, now ended in favour of contributions to local constituency parties.

Total income from unions Labour's operating general fund amounts to £60.3 million, or about £83 million at 1995 prices. The unions have contributed £8.4 million, or almost £32 million at current prices, to Labour's general election funding over the period. Such money is not to be sneezed at, but the fact is that in terms of the votes they will wield at today's conference, and financially, the unions are now in effect minority shareholders in Labour. That carries clear implications for the future.

The likelihood is that the unions' conference voting strength will follow their financial contributions below that key 50 per cent threshold.



Bickerstaff: Unison



Edmonds: GMB

As one Labour figure puts it: "Labour could now easily do without the unions — apart from general election money — without going under as a business."

For the unions, such a move would be ill-advised. While it may cause political difficulties for Labour, the proportion of unions' income that they spend on Labour is small. Even after the decline in their power, membership and influence, Britain's unions still have money: in 1994, the latest year for which complete figures are available, total income was £724 million, total spending £711 million, total funds £701 million and gross assets £856 million.

Political spending by trade unions is strictly controlled by law. It is possible only from dedicated political funds established by members' votes. Subsequent ballots must be held periodically and individual members are free to opt out of paying the so-called political levy — that part of their union subscription channelled into the political fund.

In 1994 the unions' total political spending amounted to £18.4 million, just 2.6 per cent of their overall spending. Total political fund income was £18 million, with funds standing at £15.2 million. Total political fund spending from 1979 to 1994 was £175.9 million, or some £240 million at today's prices.

Labour reckons to get no more than 50 per cent of the political spending of its affiliated unions, and Labour's total income from unions in 1994 amounted to just 1 per cent of the overall spending of Britain's trade unions.

"Labour is fantastic value for money for us," says one union general secretary. "It's one of the unions' best-kept secrets — it's all done on the cheap." As one senior Labour figure puts it: "If you're a trade union, and you want to insure against a government that will damage your position and make things difficult for the welfare of your members, if you pay an insurance premium at this level it's a very inexpensive premium."

But just as Labour has spread its income net, so too have Britain's trade unions widened their political spending. The table shows the ten largest political spenders of Labour's affiliated unions. The big three dominate: Unison, for instance, lists its overall political spending at a huge £2.2 million — 34 per cent of the total. The big three unions together account for three-quarters of all trade union political spending. Yet union spending on Labour now amounts to only 38 per cent of their total political spending. Much else goes on lobbying across Westminster and in Whitehall, as well as in Brussels and Strasbourg, or on general political advertising.

Labour leaders point out that while unions press companies, for instance, to see training as an investment, rather than as a cost, they apply precisely the same thinking to their own donations to Labour. They see a cost which delivers little, rather than an investment — and an extremely inexpensive one at that — which promises much. Some close to the Labour leadership want to see the links with the trade unions ended. Others want a radical reshaping of the relationship. Some senior union leaders privately believe that they should initiate moves to reshape them further, rather than let the party leadership make all the running.

Against that the financial reasons for maintaining the link are strong. For the unions, it is a cheap and effective purchase, even if at present they are being pushed out into the cold. For Labour, with union income in a clear minority, it is a funding source which now no longer carries the power clout it did and so offers new Labour the advantage of the money, shorn of the obligations it used to carry.

As one senior Labour figure puts it: "Everyone knows the position of the unions — that they have historically been the paymasters. But now they're not, and it's clear that things have changed for the better."

The likelihood is that the unions' conference voting strength will follow their financial contributions below that key 50 per cent threshold.

Action replay of Watergate

The Monday Play: American Faith: Richard Milhouse Nixon's Road to Watergate. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

Nixon's misdeeds and subsequent disgrace are comprehensively chronicled in the history books. Mike Walker was not content to leave them there. He has compellingly dramatised what I thought was beyond dramatisation as it already represented the ultimate in political theatre. "It's sad, so sad," says the wife of the discredited president during the closing credits, the likes of which I have never heard on radio before. This implicit plea for our sympathy finds echoes in the play. Only occasionally does Walker take our knowledge of the Watergate scandal for granted. In Ned Chaffill's gripping production, Colin Stanton's Nixon has more than the ring of authenticity. It has a whole peal of bells.

On This Day Radio 4 (LW), 10.15am. The only fault I can find with this looking-back series is the closing weather forecast. Who cares if there was thundery rain on September 30 1945? On that day, BBC radio launched the Third Programme with the satirists Stephen Potter and Joyce Grenfell telling us how to listen in. The opening item finished seven minutes too soon. And as the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal reached its climax, the strains of a Bing Crosby recording wafted in from the adjoining guardroom. It was *'Don't fence me in'*, an irony that was not lost on those observing the accused in the dock.

Peter Davall

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 8.30am Chris Evans 9.00

Sun Morning 9.25am Europe Today

7.15 Soundbite 7.30 Andy

Kershaw 8.15 Off the Shelf: Singing

Alone Around the World 8.30 The

Vintage Chart Show 9.15 The Ecological

Fightback in Latin America 9.30 Keep to

the Path 10.05 Business 10.15 Anything

Good 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.30

Crimbline 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.30

1.15 British Today 1.30 Andy

Kershaw 1.45 Off the Shelf 2.00 John Peel

4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English

4.30 News in German 5.30 Business

5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today

7.00 Headlines 7.30 Michael

Barber 8.00 Humphrey

Lyon 10.30 Star Spangled Voices

(15) 10.30 The Jameson 12.05am

Charles Nine 3.00 Steve Madden

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30

Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Alex Lester

11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie

Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John

Dunn 7.00 Headlines 7.30 Michael

Barber 8.00 Humphrey

Lyon 10.30 Nicky Henson 11.00 Mark

Taylor 12.00 Michael Ball 1.30

2.30 Outrage 2.55 Words of Faith 2.55

Meridian 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europa Today

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. Sunday Evening 12.00am Europe Today

7.15 Soundbite 7.30 Andy Kershaw 8.15 Off the Shelf: Singing

Alone Around the World 8.30 The

Vintage Chart Show 9.15 The Ecological

Fightback in Latin America 9.30 Keep to

the Path 10.05 Business 10.15 Anything

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Barber 8.00 Humphrey

Lyon 10.30 Star Spangled Voices

(15) 10.30 The Jameson 12.05am

Charles Nine 3.00 Steve Madden

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Mike Read

8.30 Headlines 9.00 Simon Cowell Concerto

J.S. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 1 in F major) 9.30 Nick Bailey 6.00 Classic

Newlight 7.30 Sonata Brahms Mola

Sonata in E flat major, Op 120 7.00

Celebrity Choice (1) 8.00 Evening

Concerto Borodin, orch Glazunov (Petipa)

9.00 Classical Concerto (2) 10.00

Music of the Americas 11.00

12.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Mike Read

8.30 Headlines 9.00 Simon Cowell

9.30 Concerto (3) 10.00

11.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Mike Read

8.30 Headlines 9.00 Simon Cowell

9.30 Concerto (4) 10.00

11.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Mike Read

8.30 Headlines 9.00 Simon Cowell

9.30 Concerto (5) 10.00

11.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Mike Read

8.30 Headlines 9.00 Simon Cowell

9.30 Concerto (6) 10.00

11.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Mike Read

8.30 Headlines 9.00 Simon Cowell

9.30 Concerto (7) 10.00

11.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Mike Read

8.30 Headlines 9.00 Simon Cowell

9.30 Concerto (8) 10.00</p

Mumbo-jumbo, market forces and mimicry

Last night's television highlights consisted of two programmes on the same channel one full of strange, obtuse language concerning mysterious events and other-worldly perceptions. The other was about God. When in doubt as to where to start, I find it best to choose the programme that is easier to understand. So I shall start with God.

Heart of the Matter (BBC1) returned for another series and brought together philosophical, scientific and theological worthies wrestling with the question of whether science advanced by its nature made belief in God impossible or at least redundant. *Heart of the Matter* has developed from the somewhat cosy and formulaic programme it was some years ago into a first-rate vehicle for the exploration of moral issues.

The protagonist last night was Richard Dawkins, the Oxford professor and atheist, whose film

for the programme argued his familiar position that science has rebutted the central tenet of religion, which is that we are the product of an omnipotent creator.

There followed a studio discussion, adroitly steered by Joan Bakewell, which featured Dawkins, Baroness Warnock, Dr David Starkey, the theologian Wenzel van Huysse and the Roman Catholic scientist Michael Heller. I found the discussion a shade narrow, but at least it produced one or two startling moments.

Dawkins had said in the film that he believes that "the modern molecular digital gene is a nail in the coffin of the religious world view". Yet in the discussion Dawkins said this: "If you use the word religion as a label for a sense of awe and wonder, almost a worship, of the complexity of the universe and of life then I am a religious person."

Set that statement alongside

Warnock's remark that "the paraphernalia of religion" can be seen as "a metaphor rather than a superstition", and you are some way towards reconciling science and religion, for there are many thinkers in the churches who do not believe that what I would call the mumbo-jumbo of Christianity excludes a belief in God as humanity's name for the moral centre in each one of us.

If God and science present no serious problems for the engaged mind, last night's other newcomer does. *Star Trek: Voyager* (BBC1) need not detain me long for I have always thought the cult status accorded to the original *Star Trek* was ridiculous and overblown, sentiments that apply in spades to this newcomer.

Now we are aboard the starship *Voyager*, commanded by Kate Mulgrew as Captain Janeway. She

and her ship are no less two-

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

dimensional than was Kirk and the *Enterprise* and the dialogue is just as laden, if not more laden, with techno-babble. Thus does Janeway define last night's little problem: "If I'm not mistaken, we're looking at a type four quantum irregularity." And if I'm not mistaken, we're looking at a grade one bundle of hokum.

So enough of that and on to the global economy, as featured in the

first of a two-part documentary, *The Hollow State* (BBC2, Saturday). Simon Hoggart's thesis is that the nation state is all washed up, dispatched down the Swanee River by the electronic interchange of money, ideas and goods.

This is hardly new, nor is it very alarming. Westminster and other parliaments have long resembled medieval jousting tournaments staged for foreign tourists. If global markets, rather than hapless politicians, are to be the engines of change then at least that makes the consumer king, for all markets are ultimately slaves to their customers.

And yet... Arthur C. Clarke said in the programme that: "the nation state is obviously obsolete". I hate to argue with the man who predicted geo-stationary satellites as far back as 1946, but just as science does not necessarily exclude religion, the global community does not necessarily exclude the

nation state. National governments surely have a role in protecting the cultural well-being of citizens, who may wish to wave the Union Jack even if it has been made by workers earning £100 a month in Guangdong province.

Governments losing their powers have only themselves to blame. Toffler, the American futurologist, talked last night about the "transition from a brute-force economy to a brain-power economy". Governments that prop up the former with ludicrous subsidies while closing their eyes to the latter have done more to demolish their own power base than any Hong Kong broker.

God, science, starships, shrinking nation states: I know, this is just what you needed on the way back to work on a Monday morning. So let us pay respects to the world's finest resource, which

is laughter, and give mention to *Rory Bremner... Who Else?* (Channel 4, Friday).

Bremner is a stupendous impersonator, the cat's whiskers. His show is almost wholly political and my only quibble is that he was halfway through the arid pastures of a Paddy Ashdown speech before I realised this was neither Paddy Ashdown nor one of his speeches. Bremner's ear is so acute that his parodies sound like the real thing.

The two Johns, Wells and Fortune, are also back, this time to explain Government policy on monetary union. The policy is to have a policy of not having a policy, until such time as there is a need to change the policy to a policy of being in favour of monetary union or a policy of being against it.

Oh see, that was a parody, too. Very good.

• Lynne Truss will appear tomorrow

CINEMA	
6.00am Business Breakfast (41160) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (1205) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (8026297)	
9.20 Style Challenge (s) (505761) 9.45 Kiley (s) (177837) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (59276)	
11.00 News and weather (4067669) 11.05 Perry Mason: Includes news and weather at 12.00 (r) (Ceefax) (36378478)	
12.45pm Carter's Caribbean (n) (87329027)	
1.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (82818)	
1.30 Regional News and weather (45718547)	
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (32097556) 2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (65559) 2.35 Turnabout (s) (1281837) 3.00 Who'll Do the Pudding? (s) (7856)	
3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (8142749) 3.55 Badger and Badger (s) (6615092) 4.10 Act Venture: Pet Detective (s) (Ceefax) (7079108) 4.35 Record Breakers (Ceefax) (s) (425214) 5.00 Newround (Ceefax) (7378030) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (2098189)	
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (645214)	
6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (1217)	
6.30 Regional News Magazines (479)	
7.00 Telly Addicts. Noel Edmonds hosts the light-hearted quiz show searching for the Telly Addicts champions of 1996. (Ceefax) (s) (9387)	
7.30 Mastersheet. The third semi-final of the 1996 Championship from the Opera House, Jersey. The specialist subjects are Gen Kelly, William Walton, Donald Farnum and Albert, the Prince Consort. (Ceefax) (s) (383)	
8.00 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (8585)	
8.30 X Cars. Undercover cop Phil Seeley and Steve Lewis go in search of ram raiders (Ceefax) (s) (7092)	
9.00 Nine O'Clock News. Regional News and weather (Ceefax) (592)	
9.30 Panorama. Steve Bradshaw reveals the tricks of the trade, used by politicians' spin-doctors, to ensure that favourable stories are picked up by the media (Ceefax) (954789)	
10.10 Chicago Hope. Waters enters a charity boxing competition and faces a tough street fighter called Tony. After taking several blows, Waters relishes and knocks his opponent down. Tony is rushed to hospital with suspected paralysis (Ceefax) (s) (19905)	
10.55 Film 96 in New York with Barry Norman. Barry Norman travels to the Big Apple, where the New York Film Festival opens with Mike Leigh's <i>Secrets and Lies</i> . (Ceefax) (s) (728740)	
11.25 Film Shadow Makers (1898). A powerful evocation of a great turning point in human history — America's decision in 1942 to attempt to build the first atomic bomb. Paul Newman plays General Leslie Groves, who appoints the brilliant scientist Oppenheimer to the project, despite his pacifist tendencies. With Dwight Schultz, Bonnie Bedelia, John Cusack, Laura Dern and Ron Frazier. Directed by Roland Joffé (S72760)	
12.15-1.30pm Weather (2272352)	

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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CHOICE

Brookside Channel 4, 9.30pm
A favourite soap opera ploy, always good for boosting audiences, is to bring back a character who has not been around for a while. *EastEnders* did it over Christmas when Frank Butcher made his creepy comeback. Now Patricia Farnham (Gabrielle Claister) suddenly turns up in Brookside Close, three months after she abandoned hubba Max and took the kids to France. Custody battles loom, there is a new health scare for Pat, and to complicate everything, Max is back with his first wife. The plot potential is rich indeed, as it needs to be because this week *Brookside* is being shown, not three times but daily, from Monday to Friday. The show's budget is obviously healthy, for most of the cast seems to follow Pat back to France before the week is out. The *EastEnders* folk must be envious. They only got to Blackpool.

Pioneers: My Special Children BBC2, 9.00pm

It is hard to believe, as late as the 1950s, how much misery arthritis was inflicting on children. Victims were in great and constant pain, had difficulty in moving about, some were blinded by the disease, some even died. That most children now escape these effects is largely due to the efforts of Dr Barbara Ansell. The Berkshire hospital where she practised closed 11 years ago and is now a ruin. The return visit she makes for this film is deeply sad. But at 72 she is still active and thousands have reason to be grateful to her. Not that either patients or colleagues could have found her easy. She admits to being a bully and she scolded those who did not work the same punishing hours. "When I was your age," she told a young surgeon实习 with a heavy laugh, "I didn't go to bed."

Wilderness ITV, 9.00pm

Alice (Amanda Ooms) is an attractive young librarian with an unusual private life. It is not just that she prefers one-night stands to lasting relationships. Once a month she goes down into her cellar and turns herself into a wolf. No wonder she is seeing a therapist (Michael Kitchen), though it takes a love affair with a zoologist (Owen Teale) to unlock her troubled mind. Dennis Danvers' novel has been adapted by Andrew Davies and Bernadette Davis (the team behind the BBC2 sitcom *Game On*) and the director is an expert in mood and menace, Ben Bolt. This formidable creative input cannot entirely disguise what is essentially a psychiatric case-history, and that may take some believing. But accepted on its own terms *Wilderness* is gripping drama and Ooms, an actress of Dutch-wealthy background, has a beguiling presence.

Cutting Edge: The Test Channel 4, 9.00pm

The driving test is the one exam with a guaranteed 50 per cent failure rate. No wonder it causes such trepidation. John Fothergill's diverting documentary claims to be the first to put cameras in the cars and record the test as it happens. The film features two candidates from opposite ends of the spectrum. Richard Reynolds starts lessons on his 17th birthday and is so confident that he has booked his test for two weeks ahead. Aviva Howard has failed the test 42 times in 18 years. Inevitably she is the main focus of interest. Small and volatile, she cheerfully trades insults with her longtime instructor and insists that she loves driving but she can never concentrate on what she is supposed to be doing. Test number 43 threatens to be no different from all the others.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (595059)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (4407932)

9.55 Regional News (3260563)

10.00 The Time... the Place (60108)

10.30 This Morning (42789818)

12.20pm Regional News (7643092)

12.30 News and weather (2757127)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (2732819) 1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (5304194) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (97348214) 2.25 Quisine (s) (97327721)

3.20 News (Teletext) (7460498)

3.25 Regional News (7469768)

3.30 Top TV Classics (s) (6630301) 3.40 The Slow Norris (s) (6582837) 3.50 Wolves, Witches and Giants (s) (6618169) 4.05 Sooty and Co (s) (7075450) 4.45 Scooby Doo (Teletext) (702059) 4.50 How 2 (Teletext) (s) (5734160)

5.10 Bruce's Price Is Right. Contestants put their knowledge of high street prices to the test (s) (6571784)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (161837)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (641059)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (728672)

6.50 Let's Go (15479)

7.00 The List (4905)

7.30 Coronation Street. Tricia nurses a sore head and Raquel arrives home from her aromatherapy course (Teletext) (289)

8.00 World in Action finds out why more than 12,000 children every year are excluded from our schools (Teletext) (s) (6653)

12.30am Nationwide Football League Extra (5649062)

1.10 The Crime Hour (5707772)

2.15 Jones and Jury (4481062)

2.35 Film: The Hi-Jackers (8505888)

4.00 Jobfinder (9719888)

5.20 Asian Eye (5716062)

6.30 HTV West except:

12.55 Coronation Street (2732818)

1.25 Quisine (6882721)

1.55 Home and Away (6354728)

2.25 The Body — A User's Guide (97341301)

5.15-5.40 A Country Practice (1296769)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5671784)

6.00 Westcountry Live (66194)

7.00-7.30 Bruce's Price Is Right (4905)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25 All Good Gifts (7651011)

1.25 Coronation Street (2732818)

1.25-1.55 Quisine (6882721)

1.55 Home and Away (6354728)

2.25 The Body — A User's Guide (97341301)

5.15-5.40 A Country Practice (1296769)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5671784)

6.00 Westcountry Live (66194)

7.00-7.30 Bruce's Price Is Right (4905)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Coronation Street (2732818)

1.25 Quisine (6882721)

1.55 Home and Away (6354728)

2.25 The Body — A User's Guide (97341301)

5.15-5.40 A Country Practice (1296769)

